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**NORTHAMPTON
COUNTY BOROUGH**

**REPORT FOR
1956**

**ON THE HEALTH
SCHOOL HEALTH
AND WELFARE SERVICES**

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NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BOROUGH

REPORT FOR

1956

ON THE HEALTH SCHOOL HEALTH AND WELFARE SERVICES





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NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BOROUGH

REPORT FOR

1956

ON THE HEALTH
SCHOOL HEALTH
AND WELFARE SERVICES

Health Report 1956

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School Health Report 1956

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INTRODUCTION TO REPORT FOR 1956 ON THE HEALTH, SCHOOL HEALTH AND WELFARE SERVICES

*To the Mayor, Aldermen, Councillors, and Co-opted Members of the
Education Committee of Northampton County Borough.*

In accordance with my statutory duty as your Medical Officer of Health, I have the honour to present the Annual Health Report for the year 1956. This is my eleventh report and the eighty-third of the series.

The report has been prepared according to Ministry of Health Circular 19/56 dated 11th December, 1956, and the information specifically asked for regarding home nursing and health of children is given on pages 20 and 46. Section V. on Inspection and Supervision of Food, pages 32 to 37, has also been amplified to include particulars requested in the Circular.

Also included with this Report are :—

(1) Mental Health Report (the ninth of the present series), prepared in compliance with Regulation 12 of the Mental Deficiency Regulations, 1948, which reads as follows :—

“ The Local Health Authority shall, not later than the thirtieth day of June in every year, make a report to the Minister of Health for the year ending on the thirty-first day of December preceding, on the performance of their duties under the Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913 to 1938, as amended by the National Health Service Act, 1946.”
(See pages 50 to 55).

(2) School Health Service Report (forty-ninth of the series), which conforms with the requirements of the Ministry of Education and complies with Regulation 13 of the School Health Service and Handicapped Pupils Regulations, 1953, which reads as follows :—

“ As soon as possible after the end of each calendar year the Authority shall submit to the Minister in respect of that year a report by their Principal School Medical Officer on the health and well-being of

pupils in his care and of the work of himself and his staff in relation thereto, including a report on the School Dental Service by the Principal School Dental Officer.”

(See pages 85 to 106).

The various aspects of the Department's work are mentioned under the appropriate headings in the body of the report. I would, however, like to draw particular attention to the shortage of health visitors and public health inspectors. (See Sections III., IV., V. and VIII.).

Once again I take the opportunity to tender to the Chairmen, Deputy-Chairmen and Members of the various Committees associated with the administration of the Health, School Health and Welfare sections my sincere appreciation of the generous help and support freely given throughout the period under review.

I also wish to thank the staff of this Department—professional and clerical—for their conscientious work during the year.

CARRICK G. PAYTON

Medical Officer of Health.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
7A ST. GILES' SQUARE,
NORTHAMPTON.
AUGUST, 1957.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Certain information contained in these Annual Reports has been supplied by the following, to whom acknowledgment is made, and the Medical Officer of Health wishes personally to thank them for their co-operation during the year and hopes that their help has been reciprocated in some degree :—

Town Clerk
 Treasurer and Chief Rating Officer
 Engineer and Surveyor
 Architect and Town Planning Officer
 Chief Education Officer
 Housing Manager
 Organisers of Physical Training
 Engineer and Manager, Mid-Northamptonshire Water Board
 Registrar-General
 St. John Ambulance Brigade
 Northampton Branch of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing
 Northampton Maternity and Infant Welfare Voluntary Association
 Consultant Chest Physician
 Tuberculosis Care Committee
 National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
 Northampton Employment Exchange
 Messrs. R. H. Primavesi, Ltd.
 Women's Voluntary Services, Northampton County Borough
 The Northants. and Rutland Mission to the Deaf

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BOROUGH HEALTH COMMITTEE

(as constituted on 31st December, 1956)

Ex-officio

The Worshipful the Mayor
(COUNCILLOR T. H. COCKERILL, J.P.)

Chairman

ALDERMAN MRS. H. M. NICHOLLS

Deputy-Chairman

COUNCILLOR T. H. DOCKRELL, M.B., F.R.C.S.I.

Alderman

W. A. PICKERING

Councillors

M. J. B. AMEY
MRS. G. BROWN
S. E. CLAYSON
MRS. K. M. GIBBS
P. GIBSON

W. GOODRICH
G. J. HACKETT
MRS. J. C. KNIGHT
MRS. E. E. WILKINSON

SUB-COMMITTEES OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

Health Services

ALDERMAN MRS. NICHOLLS (*Chairman*); COUNCILLOR MRS. WILKINSON (*Deputy-Chairman*); COUNCILLORS AMEY, DOCKRELL, MRS. GIBBS, and MRS. KNIGHT.

Non-Council Members—MESDAMES E. DAVIES, H. MACQUIRE, and J. H. PEACH; and DR. P. G. DALGLEISH.

Sanitary Services

ALDERMAN MRS. NICHOLLS (*Chairman*); COUNCILLOR GIBSON (*Deputy-Chairman*); COUNCILLORS MRS. BROWN, CLAYSON, DOCKRELL, and GOODRICH.

Welfare Services

COUNCILLOR MRS. GIBBS (*Chairman*); COUNCILLOR MRS. WILKINSON (*Deputy-Chairman*); ALDERMEN MRS. NICHOLLS and PICKERING; COUNCILLORS CLAYSON, DOCKRELL, and HACKETT.

Non-Council Members—MESDAMES E. BATCHELOR, G. L. CHARLESWORTH, J. H. PEACH, and I. E. WALKER.

Each of the above Committees meets monthly.

STAFF OF HEALTH DEPARTMENT, 1956

Medical Officer of Health, Principal School Medical Officer, Chief Tuberculosis Officer, and Welfare Administrator—

CARRICK G. PAYTON, M.D., CH.B., D.P.H. (Also *Certifying Officer under the Mental Deficiency Acts*)

Deputy Medical Officer of Health and Deputy Principal School Medical Officer—

JAMES G. HAGAN, M.B., B.CH., B.A.O., D.P.H. (Also *Certifying Officer under the Mental Deficiency Acts*)

Assistant Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare—

MRS. M. MARTIN WILLIAMS, M.B., CH.B.

Assistant Medical Officers of Health and School Medical Officers—

MARGARET O'CONNOR, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S. (Also *Certifying Officer under the Mental Deficiency Acts*)

JOHN J. HOLLOWAY, M.B., B.CH., L.M., D.P.H. (Also *Certifying Officer under the Mental Deficiency Acts*)

Public Analyst—*

D. G. ALLEN, B.SC., F.R.I.C. (From 1/10/56; formerly *Deputy*)

A. PRIDEAUX DAVSON, A.R.C.S., F.R.I.C., F.C.S. (Retired 30/9/56)

Dental Surgeon†—

J. P. WILSON, L.D.S.R.C.S. (*Principal School Dental Officer*)

Public Health Inspectors—

H. S. DAVIES (1, 2) (*Chief Inspector*)

F. R. ALLAN (1, 2) (*Deputy Chief Inspector*; resigned 30/11/56)

E. FOSTER (1) (Commenced 26/6/56)

P. BARTLEY (12) (Commenced 2/7/56)

Assistant on General Duties—

P. BARTLEY (12) (From 1/2/56 until 2/7/56)

Student Inspector—

E. FOSTER (Until 26/6/56)

Health Visitors‡—

MISS S. M. WEEKS (3, 4, 6) (*Superintendent*)

MISS R. M. BRADY (3, 4, 6)

MISS S. G. HANSFORD (3, 4, 6, 7)

MISS M. E. GRANT (3, 4, 6)

MISS F. H. COLLIER (3, 5, 6)

MISS F. H. CHAMBERLAIN (3, 4, 6)

MISS J. G. LANE (3, 4, 6)

MISS M. F. KENNARD (3, 4, 6)

MRS. N. MOORE (3, 4, 6)

MISS M. FLEMING (3, 4, 6)

MISS F. L. WHITE (3, 5, 6)

MISS G. MOLDER (3, 4, 6) (Commenced 29/6/56)

Student Health Visitors—

MISS G. MOLDER (3, 4) (Until 29/6/56)

MISS M. A. SMITH (3, 5) (Appointed 22/11/56)

Tuberculosis Visitor—

MRS. M. A. ALLSEBROOK (3)

Matron, Spencer Day Nursery—

MISS J. HADLEY (8) (Commenced 1/9/56)

MRS. R. COOK (3, 8) (Resigned 31/8/56)

Organiser of Domestic Help—

MRS. I. M. BEATTIE

Mental Health Officer (Mental Deficiency)—

MRS. K. M. WARD (9) (Also Authorised Officer)

Duly Authorised Officer and Mental Health Officer (Lunacy)—

R. H. JOHNSON (9)

Handicraft Centre Supervisor—

MRS. M. A. AXFORD (10)

Welfare Officer—

MISS V. M. HARRISON (11)

Assistant Welfare Officers—

J. D. BENOY (11)

N. BOOTH (11) (Resigned 30/11/56)

Superintendent, Kings Heath Home of Rest—

MRS. E. M. DIGBY

Superintendent, "The Priory"—

MRS. P. WILLIAMS (Commenced 1/4/56)

Superintendent, "Barnfield"—

J. STYAN (Commenced 1/6/56)

Occupational Therapist—

Vacancy

Clerks—

H. T. BOSWELL (*Chief Clerk*)

L. W. GARNER (*Senior Clerk*)

A. F. KNIGHT (*Statistical Clerk*)

R. N. RHODES

L. BLAKE

W. G. TOMALIN (Resigned 8/12/56)

J. K. SWEENEY

C. W. LEWIS (Also *Relief Authorised Officer*)

L. DODD (Commenced 7/5/56)

A. M. TIMSON (To National Service 24/4/56)

C. R. HARTE

MISS D. E. ADNITT

MRS. M. JOLLEY

MISS P. E. WALDEN

MRS. A. J. JONES (Commenced 13/2/56)

MISS M. E. HUGHES (Commenced 13/2/56)

MRS. M. E. ROGERS (Commenced 28/5/56)

Welfare Food Assistants—

MISS L. J. WILSON

MRS. E. M. SEWELL

Storeman, Welfare Foods—*

G. W. CLAYTON (Resigned 2/3/56)

Disinfestation Officer—

F. J. R. MISSIN

General Manual Assistant and Motor Driver—

W. C. SMITH

Rat-catcher—

W. E. J. DUNKLEY

The following Officers on the staff of the Oxford Regional Hospital Board rendered part-time service to Northampton County Borough Council :—

ERNEST T. W. STARKIE, M.A., M.B., B.CH., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (*Consultant Chest Physician*)JAMES M. H. MCMURRAY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (*Chest Physician*)MISS H. S. REDDISH (*Tuberculosis Almoner*)

*Part-time appointment.

†Mainly for School Dental work; part time devoted to Maternity and Child Welfare work.

‡Health Visitors also undertake school work and tuberculosis visiting under a co-ordinated scheme.

- 1 Public Health Inspector's Certificate.
- 2 Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate.
- 3 State Registered Nurse.
- 4 State Certificated Midwife.
- 5 Part I. Certificate of the Central Midwives Board.
- 6 Health Visitor's Certificate.
- 7 State Registered Fever Nurse.
- 8 Certificate of National Nursery Examination Board.
- 9 Trained in Mental Deficiency and Lunacy.
- 10 Qualified Teacher.
- 11 Home Teacher's Certificate of College of Teachers of the Blind.
- 12 Health Inspector's Certificate, Dublin University.

I.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Summary of Statistics—Northampton County Borough

Position: Latitude 52° 14' North ; Longitude 0° 54' West
 Elevation of Guildhall above mean sea level 252 feet
 Area 6,201 acres (9.7 square miles)

Population :—

Census 1951 104,432

Registrar-General's Estimated Home Population (all ages)
 as at 30th June, 1956, including members of Armed
 Forces stationed in area 101,800

Number of Separate Dwellings Occupied :—

Census 1951 30,677

According to Rate Books (31st December, 1956) 33,168

Number of Private Households (Census 1951) 32,687

Rateable Value (31st December, 1956) £1,505,609

Estimated Yield of One Penny Rate 1956/57 £5,920

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1956

		TOTALS	MALES	FEMALES		
Live Births	Legitimate	1,323	704	619	} Birth-rate	13.8
	Illegitimate	86	41	45		
	Totals	1,409	745	664		
Adjusted Birth-rate (Area Comparability Factor 1.02)						14.1
Stillbirths	Legitimate	30	12	18	} Rate	0.31*
	Illegitimate	2	—	2		
	Totals	32	12	20		
Deaths	.....	1,289	696	593	—Death-rate	12.7
Adjusted Death-rate (Area Comparability Factor 0.94)						11.9
Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of, Childbirth						2
Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age per 1,000 Live Births :—						
Legitimate ... 23.4		Illegitimate ... 34.9		Total (34 deaths)		24.1
(31 deaths)		(3 deaths)				

	NUMBER	RATE
Deaths from Measles	0	0.00
Deaths from Whooping Cough	0	0.00
Deaths from Diphtheria	0	0.00
Deaths from Respiratory Tuberculosis	20	0.20
Deaths from Other Tuberculous Diseases	2	0.02
Total Tuberculosis Deaths	22	0.22
Deaths from Cancer	205	2.01
Deaths from Influenza	6	0.06

* 22.2 per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births Registered.

Population. (Table A, page 84). The Registrar-General estimated the home population at all ages of Northampton County Borough as at 30th June, 1956, to be 101,800, which is 1,000 less than his estimate for mid-year 1955.

The natural increase of the population, *i.e.*, the surplus of registered live births over deaths, for 1956 was 120, or 1.18 per thousand living.

Table A gives the population figures from 1901 onwards.

Births. (Tables 1 and 2, page 65). 1,409 live births (745 males, 664 females) were registered, giving a birth-rate of 13.8 per thousand of the estimated civilian population, compared with 15.7 for England and Wales.

Table 1 gives the birth-rates for the last decennium compared with those for England and Wales.

86 (6.1 per cent.) of the live births were illegitimate. In England and Wales the percentage was 4.6. The percentages for the last ten years are shewn in Table 2.

The adjusted birth-rate for Northampton County Borough (calculated by multiplying the crude rate by the Registrar-General's area comparability factor of 10.2) was 14.1.

Deaths. (Table 3, page 65, and Table C at end). 1,289 deaths (696 males, 593 females) were registered, equal to a death-rate of 12.7, compared with 11.7 for England and Wales. Table 3 gives the local and national death-rates for the last ten years.

931 (72.2 per cent.) of the deaths related to elderly persons aged sixty-five years and upwards.

Table C at the end of this report, giving the causes of death in age-periods, was compiled from information supplied by the Registrar-General.

The adjusted death-rate for Northampton County Borough (calculated by multiplying the crude rate by the area comparability factor of 0.94) was 11.9.

State of Employment. Throughout 1956 the level of employment remained high, although the number of persons totally unemployed or working short time increased during the later months of the year. The increase was mainly due to slackness in building and civil engineering and in certain sections of engineering. On 16th January, 1956, 168 men and 62 women were registered as unemployed at Northampton Employment Exchange. There was little fluctuation until July; afterwards a slow increase occurred. With a rise in short-time working in December, the register of persons unemployed or working short time had risen to 675 men and 137 women at 10th December, 1956.

The wholly unemployed persons included 103 men and 41 women over fifty years of age, 48 men and 8 women registered disabled persons not requiring sheltered employment, and 234 men and 68 women who had been unemployed for eight weeks or less. This was the highest figure of unemployment during 1956; the lowest was 131 men and 61 women.

During 1956 the number of vacancies notified to the Employment Exchange decreased. Notified vacancies unfilled on 12th December, 1956, numbered 236 for men and 172 for women. These were principally in general engineering, aircraft repair, building and civil engineering, and transport for men; general engineering, manufacture of clothing, retail distribution, and catering for women.

Meteorology. (Table 4, page 66). The total rainfall for 1956 was 27·97 inches, *i.e.*, 4·90 inches more than in 1955 and 2·94 inches above the average (25·03) for the past fifty-two years, 1904 to 1955 inclusive. The wettest month was July and the driest May. The heaviest fall occurred on 27th July, when 1·42 inches were registered. The number of days on which 0·01 inch or more rain fell was 205.

The highest shade temperature recorded was 80·0°F. on 25th July. The lowest reading of the thermometer was 15·0°F. on 31st January. There were 68 cold nights, *i.e.*, nights when the temperature fell to 32°F. (freezing point) or below.

The prevailing wind was north-west on 128 days, south-west on 102, north-east on 69, and south-east on 67.

Other Statistics. The notes on infant and maternal mortality, stillbirths, notifiable and other diseases, housing conditions, and other statistics usually included in the annual report, will be found under the headings referring to these matters.

Attention is also directed to the statistics on page 15, to Table A on page 84, and to Tables B and C at the end of this report.

II.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Health Staff. A list of the officers of the Health Department appears on pages 12 to 14.

The staff employed in the school health service is listed in the Annual Report upon the School Health Service on page 87.

Treatment Centres and Clinics. A list is given below of clinics, etc., in Northampton County Borough on 31st December, 1956 :—

ANTE-NATAL AND POST-NATAL CLINICS

St. Giles' Street Infant Welfare Centre.

Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 12 noon, or by appointment.

Those patients booked for confinement at the Barratt Maternity Home attend the Barratt Home Ante-natal Clinic; patients booked for St. Edmund's Hospital attend the Ante-natal Clinic at that hospital: these Ante-natal Clinics are under the control of the Northampton and District Hospital Management Committee.

CHILD WELFARE CENTRES

- (1) Abington Avenue (Congregational Church Rooms).
Thursdays, 2 to 4.30 p.m.
- (2) Broadmead (Baptist Church Rooms).
Mondays, 2 to 4.30 p.m.
- (3) Dallington (Spencer-Dallington Community Centre).
Thursdays, 2 to 4.30 p.m.
- (4) Doddridge Memorial (Congregational Church Rooms).
Wednesdays, 2 to 4.30 p.m.
- (5) Far Cotton (St. Mary's Church Rooms).
Mondays, 2 to 4.30 p.m.
- (6) Kingsley Park (Methodist Church Rooms).
Mondays, 2 to 4.30 p.m.
- (7) Kingsthorpe (Baptist Church Rooms).
Tuesdays, 2 to 4.30 p.m.
- (8) St. David's (Church Rooms).
Fridays, 2 to 4.30 p.m.
- (9) St. Giles' Street (Infant Welfare Centre).
Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 2 to 4.30 p.m.
- (10) St. Sepulchre's (Church Buildings).
Wednesdays, 2 to 4.30 p.m.
- (11) Wheatfield Road (Abington Community Centre).
Fridays, 2 to 4.30 p.m.

(With the exception of (9) above, all these centres are held on hired premises).

DIPHTHERIA AND WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATION CLINICS

- (1) St. Giles' Street Infant Welfare Centre.
Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 12 noon. (Children under five years of age).
- (2) School Clinic, King Street. School children by appointment.

SMALLPOX VACCINATION CLINIC

St. Giles' Street Infant Welfare Centre. Children under five years of age by appointment.

MINOR AILMENTS CLINIC

School Clinic, King Street. Weekdays, 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

DENTAL CLINIC

School Clinic, King Street. By appointment.

EYE CLINIC

School Clinic, King Street. By appointment.

★ ORTHOPTIC CLINIC

Northampton General Hospital. School cases referred by Ophthalmic Surgeon.

★ EAR NOSE AND THROAT CLINIC

Northampton General Hospital. By appointment.

★ ORTHOPÆDIC CLINIC

Manfield Orthopædic Clinic, Hazelwood Road. By appointment.

REMEDIAL EXERCISES CLINIC

School Clinic, King Street. By appointment.

SUNLIGHT CLINIC

School Clinic, King Street. Cases referred through Child Welfare Centres and School Clinic.

SPEECH CLINIC

28 Billing Road. By appointment.

CHILD GUIDANCE CLINIC

County Offices, Guildhall Road. By appointment.

★ CHEST CLINIC (TUBERCULOSIS)

Chest Clinic, 11 St. Matthew's Parade.

Routine sessions : Tuesdays and Fridays from 9.30 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Session for workers : Mondays from 5.30 p.m.

Sessions for diagnosis cases : Wednesdays and Fridays from 9.30 a.m.

Session for contacts, etc. : By arrangement.

Session for artificial pneumothorax treatment : Mondays and Wednesdays commencing 2 p.m.

Sessions for miniature X-ray examination (to which any member of the public can be admitted) :—

Tuesdays, 11.15 a.m. to 12.15 p.m.

Wednesdays, 6 to 7.30 p.m.

Fridays, 9 to 10 a.m.

Domiciliary visits : By arrangement with the Consultant Chest Physician.

★ VENEREAL DISEASES

Treatment Centre, Northampton General Hospital.

Males—Wednesdays 2 p.m.; Fridays 5 p.m.

Females—Mondays 5 p.m.; Fridays 2 p.m.

★ Clinics under the control of the Northampton and District Hospital Management Committee.

National Health Service. The proposals of Northampton County Borough Council under the National Health Service Act, 1946, were approved by the Minister of Health during 1948. Modifications were made in 1950, 1952, 1954, and 1955. The Annual Health Reports for 1948, 1950, 1952, 1954, and 1955 should be consulted for further details.

The only modification made in 1956 is noted below :—

Supplementation of original proposals under *Section 26 (Vaccination and Immunisation)* by the addition under the part headed “Supplementary” of the following paragraph :—

“ The Council proposes also to make arrangements for offering to persons in its area, or to any groups of such persons, immunisation against any other disease in respect of which authority is sought from and given by the Minister of Health.

The Medical Officer of Health will be responsible for keeping records directed towards assessing the value of any such form of immunisation."

The above modification was approved by the Minister of Health on 12th January, 1956, and authority was given at the same time for arrangements for immunisation against tetanus.

Approval was given by the Minister of Health on 14th March, 1956, for the provision of vaccination against poliomyelitis for children born between 1947 and 1954 inclusive.

(See page 38).

The report of the Principal School Dental Officer on the dental treatment provided for expectant and nursing mothers and for young children during 1956 is given on pages 48 and 82.

Home Nursing. This service is provided by the Northampton Branch of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing on behalf of the Council under Section 25 of the National Health Service Act, 1946.

During 1956, Queen's Nurses paid 65,617 visits to 1,804 cases. There were 12 whole-time and 12 part-time nurses on the staff at the end of the year.

As required by the Minister of Health in paragraph 2 of circular 19/56, dated 11th December, 1956, it is recorded that 25,452 injections were given by the Queen's Nurses during 1956 as follows :—

TYPE OF INJECTION	NUMBER GIVEN
Insulin	15,112
Penicillin	2,900
Mersalyl	2,732
Streptomycin	2,338
Morphia	881
Cytamen	673
Pethidine	225
Anahaemin	144
Omnopon	122
Plexan	110
Vitamin B 12	70
Neptal	62
Hyoscine	24
Ergometrine	13
Cortisone	11
Crystamycin	10
Adrenalin	9
Cardophylin	7
Viomycin	7
Triplopen	2
Total	<u>25,452</u>

The number of visits made during the year by the Queen's Nurses to children aged five years and under was 376.

Ambulance Services. Under Section 27 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the Northampton Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade operate the ambulance services on behalf of the Local Authority, covering infectious disease cases as well as general ambulance work and accidents.

The following summarises the work during 1956 :—

	AMBULANCES	CARS	TOTALS
Vehicles on 31/12/56	7	1	8
Journeys	5,775	7,545	13,320
Patients carried	8,842	13,697	22,539
Accidents and other emergency journeys included above	539	84	623
Total mileage	45,979	67,700	113,679

Of the total mileage of 113,679, journeys within the County Borough amounted to 75,720 miles and those to destinations outside to 37,959. There were 264 journeys of 50 miles or more which accounted for 26,873 miles of the 37,959.

The 1956 mileage of 113,679 compares with 118,974 in 1955.

The average monthly mileage in 1956 was 9,473, compared with 9,915 in 1955.

On 31st December, 1956, the paid whole-time drivers and attendants numbered 11.

Two of the seven ambulances mentioned above can be used either as ambulances or as sitting case cars.

Whenever possible, railway facilities were used for the longer journeys. There were 61 such journeys in 1956, totalling 6,936 miles.

There were 170 persons conveyed by motor ambulance or sitting case car at the request of the Ministry of Pensions or the Ministry of Health to artificial limb and appliance centres, mainly at Leicester and Nottingham, involving 47 journeys and a mileage of 3,187.

Convalescence. In accordance with the Council's scheme under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, four persons received recuperative convalescence for two weeks. They were assessed to contribute towards the cost according to their means. Cases were sent to the following homes :—

Beau Site Home, Hastings	3
St. John's Home, Weston Favell	1

Domestic Help. The following information relates to the working of the Domestic Help Scheme under Section 29 of the National Health Service Act, 1946 :—

Administrative staff on 31st December, 1956 :—

Organiser	1	}	2
Clerk	1		

Home helps employed on 31st December, 1956 :—

Whole time (permanent staff)	8	}	55
Part time (temporary staff)	47		

Cases helped during 1956 :—

Maternity (including expectant mothers) ...	64	}	410
Tuberculosis	4		
Chronic sick (including aged and infirm) ...	265		
Others	77		

(Weekly average of cases helped=154).

Visits by Organiser	105
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Under the approved scheme, help can be provided for households where such help is required owing to the presence of any person who is ill, lying-in, an expectant mother, mentally defective, aged, or a child not over compulsory school age. Application is made to the Medical Officer of Health. Charges appropriate to the means of the user are made in accordance with a local scale.

Mental Health Services. The Health Committee, acting through the Health Services Sub-Committee (*see* page 11), are responsible for the administration locally of legislation embodied in the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts and Mental Deficiency Acts, as amended by the National Health Service Acts.

The report for 1956 is incorporated in this volume (*see* Section IX. on pages 50 to 55).

School Health Service. The Medical Officer of Health is also Principal School Medical Officer. The Annual Report upon the School Health Service is published on pages 85 to 106 and gives particulars of the staff employed and the work done during 1956.

Welfare Services. In Northampton County Borough the welfare services under the National Assistance Acts are under the general administration of the Medical Officer of Health, who is also designated Welfare Administrator.

Reference should be made to Section X. on pages 55 to 64.

Children's Homes, etc. The following work was performed by the Health Department for the Children Committee :—

Visits by Medical Officers to Children's Homes	65
Number of examinations of children in Homes	145
Examinations by Medical Officers of boarded-out children	33

Laboratory Facilities. The work in connection with water and food or the control of epidemic diseases, etc., is performed in the Public Health Laboratory at Northampton General Hospital, free of charge to the Local Authority.

Maternity and Other Nursing Homes. On 31st December, 1956, two nursing homes (containing 37 beds, including 19 for maternity cases) were on the register kept under Section 187 of the Public Health Act, 1936, viz :—

HOME	REGISTERED FOR
St. Matthew's Nursing Home, 29/31 St. Matthew's Parade	22 patients (not more than 4 to be maternity cases)
St. Saviour's Home 21A Manor Road	15 maternity cases

St. Saviour's Home is managed by the Peterborough Diocesan Council of Moral Welfare. Unmarried mothers are retained here, along with their babies, for about four months, during which period they receive training in domestic duties as well as in child management.

These homes are regularly inspected by the Assistant Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare, the officer appointed by the Local Authority to carry out this duty. (See page 47).

One nursing home was exempted from registration under Section 192 of the Public Health Act, 1936, viz : Bethany Homestead Nursing Home.

Health Education. Mothers attending child welfare clinics were instructed and advised by doctors and health visitors of the Health Department staff on a variety of health education subjects.

Lectures and talks were also given by members of the staff for the benefit of groups of interested persons or organisations. Six officers gave 33 talks in this way to audiences totalling about 760.

Contributions to Voluntary Associations. Below is a list of annual grants and contributions made by the Council, through the Health Committee, to voluntary associations operating in the field of public health and welfare :—

ASSOCIATION	ANNUAL AMOUNT			OBSERVATION
	£	s.	d.	
<i>Paid through Local Health Authority Account</i>				
National Baby Welfare Council	5	5	0	Annual grant
National Association for Maternal and Child Welfare	5	5	0	Annual affiliation fee
National Society of Children's Nurseries...	3	3	0	Annual affiliation fee
Northampton Maternity and Infant Welfare Voluntary Association	100	0	0	Annual grant
Northampton Women's Welfare Association ...	15	0	0	Annual grant
Central Midwives Board	54	18	4	Apportioned contri- bution for 1955/56
Carried forward ...	£183	11	4	

Brought forward ...	£183	11	4	
Northampton Tuberculosis Care Committee .	250	0	0	Annual grant
National Association for Mental Health	5	5	0	Annual grant
<i>Paid through Welfare Account</i>				
Northampton Council of Social Service	600	0	0	Annual grant <i>re</i> St. George's Homestead
Southern Regional Association for the Blind	19	0	0	Apportioned contribution for 1955/56
National Library for the Blind	64	0	0	Annual contribution based on readers
Northamptonshire and Rutland Mission to the Deaf	500	0	0	Annual grant
Total	£1,621	16	4	

Legislation in Force. Except for the repeal of Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, by the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, there are no other amendments to record during 1956 to the list of Local Acts and Orders and General Adoptive Acts relating to public health in force in Northampton County Borough, printed on pages 28 and 29 of the 1953 Report, and the list of Byelaws given on page 27 of the 1954 Report.

III.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

Water Supply. Particulars relating to the waterworks at Ravenshorpe and Hollowell and the sources of the public water supply of Northampton County Borough and district have been given in previous reports. The water is treated with charcoal for undesirable flavour, filtered, and chlorinated, so that it reaches a high degree of bacteriological purity.

Pitsford Reservoir, officially opened by the Queen Mother on 25th October, 1956, covers an area of 175 acres and holds 4,000,000,000 gallons, compared with the reservoirs at Ravensthorpe (414,000,000 gallons) and Hollowell (453,000,000 gallons).

This water undertaking is managed by the Mid-Northamptonshire Water Board, of which Northampton County Borough are a constituent authority.

It must be made quite clear, however, that under Section 28 of the Water Act, 1945, it is the duty of every local authority to take from time to time such steps as may be necessary for ascertaining the sufficiency and wholesomeness of water supplies within their district, etc.

94 samples collected from various points of supply within the County Borough were submitted for bacteriological examination and a very satisfactory report was received in practically every instance.

The average daily consumption of water in the County Borough is estimated to be 33 gallons per head of the population.

Only a very few houses are not supplied direct from the public mains.

Drainage and Sewerage. Chiefly as a result of rat complaints, existing drains are tested and repaired under the supervision of the district public health inspectors, new drainage and reconstructions being the responsibility of the Borough Engineer, as also is sewage disposal.

The dry weather flow of sewage to the Works, Great Billing, averages 5 million gallons per day. The maximum rate of sewage flow in storm is approximately 36 million gallons per day.

There are still a few properties on the outskirts of the County Borough not connected to the main sewerage system, but none of these gave rise to complaints.

Public Cleansing. This continues to be efficiently carried out under the direction of the Borough Engineer. Collections of household refuse and salvage are made twice weekly.

Dustbins are provided by the Local Authority for the use of householders, free of charge, under Section 75 (3) of the Public Health Act, 1936.

District Inspection. Table 5, page 67, summaries the work of the public health inspectors. 10,746 inspections and visits were made during 1956.

Smoke Abatement and Atmospheric Pollution. In contrast with many industrial areas, Northampton County Borough can be said to be comparatively free from serious atmospheric pollution and the inhabitants enjoy reasonably clean air. There are a few persistent offenders, however, who cause nuisance in areas immediately adjoining their factories, but due to the acute shortage of public health inspectors it is only possible to notify the offending firms of the existence of a complaint, any observations or follow-up action being absolutely out of the question.

Nuisance from offensive smells emanating from the processing of animal by-products has been practically overcome by the use of deodorants in the digestors, in addition to chlorination in the cooling tower of the main chimney.

Swimming Baths. Northampton has adequate swimming facilities, both indoor and open-air. The Public Baths, Upper Mounts, is a modern establishment, whilst the open-air swimming pool, known as Midsummer Meadow Baths, is a large sheet of water with pleasant surroundings. A private open-air bath, built by staff and scholars, was opened during the year at the Town and County Grammar School for Boys. There is also an indoor bath at Barry Road School.

Eight samples from Midsummer Meadow Baths were submitted for bacteriological examination during the year, one of which was reported as unsatisfactory ; the remaining seven were all very satisfactory.

Disinfestation Service. Insect problems of all types are dealt with by the municipal disinfestation service. Gammexane and D.D.T. compositions are used and applied by a 30 lb. pressure spray and powder blower. Bedding, etc., is dealt with in a steam disinfecter.

Charges: For ordinary dwellinghouses, a flat rate of five shillings per room, with a maximum charge of £2 per house. For infestations of bed bugs and fleas, which are certified by the public health inspectors as requiring attention in the public interest, no charge is made.

Treatment of business premises is carried out by contract or after survey and estimate of cost has been prepared for special solutions which may have to be purchased or made up to deal with the particular problem.

In addition to the normal work of disinfestation, the Department was called upon to deal with what was tantamount to a plague of earwigs which invaded the houses and other buildings of a Council estate nightly. These insects seemed to be most regular in their habits, appearing in hordes about midnight. The liberal use of insecticides on the outsides of buildings kept the insides comparatively free from infestation and over 100 buildings were treated in this way. Some success was also achieved by trapping the earwigs in old sacks in the daytime and applying insecticide. The infestation lasted for eight weeks.

The information below regarding the eradication of bed bugs is set out in the form required by the Ministry of Health :—

- (1) During 1956, infestations of bed bugs were found in 2 Council houses and 13 other houses.
- (2) Methods of disinfestation employed—*see first paragraph.*
- (3) The furniture and effects of tenants from 14 bug-infested houses were treated prior to removal to Council houses.
- (4) The work of disinfestation is carried out by the Disinfestation Officer under the supervision of the public health inspectors.
- (5) Remedial measures are explained to tenants when premises are treated, so as to prevent re-infestation.

Canal Boats. The following is extracted from the annual report under Section 249 (3) of the Public Health Act, 1936, prepared for the Ministry of Health :—

Owing to the acute shortage in the staff of public health inspectors, it was not possible for any time to be devoted to this work during 1956.

The number of boats on the register believed to be in use is three.

No cases of infectious disease were notified and no boats were detained for disinfection.

Common Lodging Houses. There is only one common lodging house on the register kept under Section 237, Public Health Act, 1936, viz : 5 St. Andrew's Street, with accommodation for 34 men. It was only possible to visit the premises four times during the year.

Factories. Table 9 (page 73) gives particulars of premises on the register and work done under the Factories Act, 1937, in the form prescribed by the Ministry of Labour and National Service.

Offensive Trades. At the end of December, 1956, there were twelve names on the list of proprietors of offensive trades (Section 107, Public Health Act, 1936), viz :—

Fat melter	1
Rag and bone dealers	8
Bone dealer	1
Tripe boiler	1
Tripe boiler, fat melter, and gut scraper	1

Routine inspection of these premises was not possible due to staff shortage. The only visits made were in respect of a few complaints that were received.

Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc. There is one site in the County Borough licensed under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the use of two movable trailer caravans. Municipal car parks are occasionally used by variety artistes and circus performers.

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials. No flock is manufactured in Northampton, but eight premises where flock is used are registered under the Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951. No samples were taken.

Pet Animals. Six shops were licensed as pet shops during 1956. In each case the premises were visited by the public health inspectors and reported on regarding accommodation and general welfare of the animals kept.

Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs. During the year, 12 informal samples were sent to the Agricultural Analyst who reported in respect of 3 that the statutory statements were outside the limits of variation as provided for under the Act, but in view of the fact that the samples were of a better quality than stated no action was taken. The statutory statement of another sample was also reported to be outside the limits of variation but of a poorer quality than stated and this is to be followed up with a formal sample in due course.

Rodent Control. The full-time Rat-catcher works under the supervision of the Chief Public Health Inspector. His advice and help are at the service of the occupier of any dwellinghouse, free of charge, whereas a charge is made in respect of business premises.

Only poisons approved by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food are used. These are zinc phosphide for sewer treatments and Warfarin for surface infestations.

1,205 visits were made by the Rat-catcher in addition to 261 visits by public health inspectors. There were 383 poison baitings and 1,025 rat bodies were picked up.

A second sewer treatment, based on the 1955 test baiting, was carried out in March, 1956. In this treatment, 722 manholes were baited and 612 had baits taken.

A preliminary test baiting of 229 manholes (approximately one-tenth of the total manholes—2,664) was made in October, 1956; 103 of these baits were taken. In the resulting sewer treatment, carried out in November, 968 manholes were treated and 720 had baits taken.

IV.—HOUSING

Council Houses. The present position of the municipal housing schemes is given below :—

Number of Council houses completed during 1956	244
Total number of houses erected for the Corporation up to 31st December, 1956 (exclusive of 250 temporary bungalows)	7,979

Other Houses. The following private building operations relating to housing, plans for which had been approved by the Council, were carried out during the year :—

New dwellinghouses (private enterprise)	227
Conversion of houses into flats (number of family units)	17
Conversion of stables into living accommodation	1
Alterations and extensions to dwellinghouses	111
Extension to old persons' home	1
New private garages	182

Individual Unfit Houses. (Tables 6 and 7, pages 69 and 70). 32 individual houses were represented as unfit under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936. 31 of these were occupied at the time. Demolition Orders were made in 3 instances under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, and Closing Orders under Section 10 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953, were made in 25 cases; action relative to the remaining 4 was under consideration at the end of the year (*see* Table 6).

Table 7 gives the position at the end of 1956 of 94 houses represented prior to 1956.

48 of the houses shewn in Tables 6 and 7 were demolished during 1956. 145 persons from 47 families were rehoused from 46 houses. 21 represented houses were still occupied at the end of 1956.

In addition, certificates of unfitness were submitted in respect of 5 houses owned by the Corporation, all of which were occupied at the time. 2 were subsequently closed and the occupants (4 persons from 2 families) rehoused. The remaining 3 houses were still occupied at the end of the year. (*See* Table 8, page 72).

Slum Clearance. One area of fifteen houses in Horsemarket Gardens was represented as Northampton County Borough (Horsemarket Gardens) (No. 1) Clearance Area, but an Order subsequently made was not enforced due to the purchase of the area by the Corporation by agreement with the owner. On 5th April, 1956, these fifteen dwellinghouses were occupied by 56 persons (40 adults and 16 children under 10 years).

An area comprising 117 houses in the redevelopment area was surveyed with a view to Clearance Order procedure but in the light of the survey it was not represented in whole or in part. It did, however, contain some individual unfit houses which are being dealt with under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Due to the acute shortage of public health inspectors it is not possible to really get down to this problem. At the moment another area is under survey, but the work is greatly impeded by the necessity to deal with complaints, many of which entail the preparation of reports with a view to representing properties as unfit under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Repairs to Property. Table 5 (page 67) gives particulars of the work of the public health inspectors relative to housing.

Property repairs are dealt with under the nuisance sections of the Public Health Act, 1936, 253 informal and 124 statutory notices being served. 22 informal and 117 statutory notices were outstanding at the end of 1956. The low rentals of controlled houses compared with the high cost of building repairs is a serious obstacle which must be overcome if the life of existing properties is to be preserved, otherwise their deterioration may outweigh the benefits of building new houses.

Overcrowding. Cases of overcrowding continue to be brought to notice. There were 16 known cases, involving 123 persons, at the end of 1956, most of them being of a minor character when measured by legal standards (Section 58, Housing Act, 1936).

Sufficiency of Supply of Houses. On 21st January, 1957, the waiting list for Council houses comprised 1,791 applicants, classified as follows :—

In rooms, no children	330
In rooms, one child	357
In rooms, two or more children	89
Single persons	46
Tenants of houses	618
Resident outside the County Borough	189
Applicants for one-bedroom dwellings	141
Applicants awaiting marriage	21
Total	<hr/> 1,791 <hr/>

Housing Statistics. The particulars for 1956 are set out below in the form required by the Ministry of Health :—

1.—*Inspection of Dwellinghouses.*

(1) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	641
(2) Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above) inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	248
(3) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	32
(4) Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	253

2.—*Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.*

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	128
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3.—*Action under Statutory Powers.*

A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	0
(2) Number of dwellinghouses rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	0
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	124
(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	127
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	3
(2) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	46*

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	0
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	0

E.—Proceedings under Sections 10 and 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953 :—

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	25
(2) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Closing Orders were substituted for Demolition Orders	0

4.—*Housing Act, 1936.—Part IV.—Overcrowding.*

A.—(1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	16
(2) Number of persons dwelling therein	123†
B.—Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	11
C.—(1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	17
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	86†
D.—Particulars of any cases in which dwellinghouses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil
E.—Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	‡

* 2 others were demolished after official representation only.

† Equivalent number of units = 109 and 69½ respectively.

‡ See paragraph on “ Overcrowding ” on page 29.

Other Housing Matters. Reference should be made to Section III. “ Sanitary Circumstances ” for other information bearing on housing.

The estimated number of inhabited houses in the County Borough on 31st December, 1956, was 33,168. For a population of 101,800 this is equivalent to an average of 3·1 persons per house.

It is recorded that 1,822 questionnaires were answered for the Town Clerk's Department under the Land Charges Act, 1925.

V.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk and Dairies. At the end of 1956, the following entries were in the register kept under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 :—

Dairy premises	3
Milk distributors	133

Designated Milk. The following licences under the various Special Designations Regulations were in operation at the end of 1956 :—

Tuberculin Tested Milk

Dealer's licence authorising the use of the special designation "tuberculin tested" (including four bottling establishments)	22
--	----

Pasteurised Milk

Dealer's (pasteuriser's) licence authorising the use of the special designation "pasteurised"	3
Dealer's licence authorising the use of the special designation "pasteurised"	105

Sterilised Milk

Dealer's licence authorising the use of the special designation "sterilised"	89
--	----

169 samples of milk were submitted for examination during 1956, viz : 57 tuberculin tested (pasteurised), 95 pasteurised, and 17 sterilised. 5 samples failed to pass the methylene blue test.

All the pasteurised and tuberculin tested (pasteurised) samples were submitted to the phosphatase test; 1 failed to reach the required standard. All the samples of sterilised milk were subjected to the turbidity test and were satisfactory.

Particulars regarding the defaulting samples were reported to the Area Milk Officer, as requested by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food.

Tubercle Bacilli in Milk. Two samples of ordinary raw milk were submitted in 1956 for biological examination for the presence of tubercle bacilli. Both satisfactorily passed the guinea pig test.

Food Premises. The estimated number of food premises in the County Borough is as follows :—

Grocers and dairy shops	433
Butchers	145
Fishmongers and poulterers	44
Greengrocers	108
Bread and flour confectioners	55
Confectioners	91
Chemists	44
Restaurants, cafes, etc.	109
Licensed premises	325
Other food shops	91

Total	1,445
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Of these, 409 are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955. There are also 3 dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 to 1954. Due to the acute shortage of public health inspectors none of these premises was subjected to routine inspection.

During the year, 44 butchers premises and 18 ice cream premises were registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

With the advent of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955 to 1956, the Chief Public Health Inspector addressed various food traders organisations, but it is regretted that staff was not available to maintain the interest shewn by traders at the outset and inspired by the addresses and the press.

Meat and Food Inspection. (Tables 10 and 11, pages 74 and 75). The total throughput again increased on the previous year, there being 1,259 more cattle and 5,616 more smalls.

As it has not been possible to appoint an officer to do full-time meat inspection duties the Chief Public Health Inspector undertook this work, in addition to his other responsibilities, and maintained 100 per cent. inspection of all animals killed. This entailed providing a seven days per week service.

A case of anthrax in a steer dressed at one of the Borough slaughterhouses was suspected by the Chief Public Health Inspector and subsequently confirmed by the veterinary laboratory of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. It was a casualty animal which had been sent for slaughter for human consumption. The carcase and all organs and by-products of slaughter were disposed of by incineration at a cost to the Local Authority of £28 3s. 4d.

Other foods condemned included a small percentage of the throughput of wet fish, due to delay on the railway during warm weather, and tins, jars, and packets of foodstuffs, mainly from provision merchants. Condemned foodstuffs are disposed of by incineration in the Corporation incinerator at West Bridge Depot.

During the year, 202 samples of cooked and prepared meat products were submitted for bacteriological examination.

Seizure of Unsound Food. It was not necessary to seize any unsound food, but 2,956 surrender notes were issued—1,008 for meat, etc., from slaughterhouses and 1,948 for tins, etc., of food (*see* Table 10, page 74).

Slaughterhouses. There are eleven slaughterhouses on the register, *viz* :—

26 Abbey Road
68 Bailiff Street
Cattlemarket
14 Military Road
1A Oliver Street
Ransome Road
8 Regent Square
St. Andrew's Hospital
69 St. James' Road
38 Sandhill Road
64 Wellington Street

With the exception of 26 Abbey Road, all are in regular use.

In addition to the meat produced from these slaughterhouses, there are three depots from which home killed and imported meat and offal is distributed. The increase in the throughput from these premises and the slaughterhouses endorses the fact that Northampton is a very suitable centre for the production and distribution of meat. The delay in the publication of a minimum standard for slaughterhouses makes it very difficult to assess the size of any future public abattoir. The feeling amongst the present occupiers of slaughterhouses is that they wish to retain their accommodation and are quite prepared to carry out any reasonable works to comply with the standard when it is known, but should this not be practicable they would then, of course, require public abattoir facilities.

Slaughter of Animals. At the end of 1956, the names of 47 slaughtermen were on the register kept under the Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933 to 1954.

Bakehouses. The 45 bakehouses in the County Borough received routine inspections under the Factories Acts.

Ice Cream. At the end of 1956, the following registrations of ice cream premises under Section 16, Food and Drugs Act, 1955, were in operation :—

GROUP I.	Storing and selling prepacked ice cream	326
GROUP II.	Storing and selling bulk ice cream	26
GROUP III.	Manufacturing, storing, and selling cold mix ice cream	10
GROUP IV.	Manufacturing, storing, and selling hot mix ice cream	3
Total		365

It has not been possible to make any routine inspections under the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947-52, but premises have been inspected where a new application is received or a change of occupier is notified.

6 samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination.

Food Poisoning. 157 cases of food poisoning were notified under Section 26 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, in Northampton County Borough during 1956. This is equal to an attack-rate of 1.5 per thousand of the population.

There were two outbreaks which call for special mention :—

The first occurred during the period 27th September to 19th November, 1956, and was due to a *Salmonella enteritidis* infection. A total of 113 notifications was received and a further 17 cases came to the notice of the Department, making a total of 130 cases. There were two deaths. 65 of the cases were confirmed bacteriologically.

The suspected vehicle of infection was potted beef manufactured and retailed by a local firm. The word "suspected" is used advisedly as in only one instance was the organism isolated from the product and that was in a Public Health Laboratory in another area, although some 250 samples were taken locally in eight weeks with no specimen shewing the infecting organism.

By 5th October, 27 cases (including 4 at Oxford) had come to light :—

1 case due to *Salm. enteritidis*

4 cases reported as *Salm. dublin*(?)

5 cases due to *Salm. typhi-murium*

17 cases reported as "Organism of Salmonella."

A suspected source had been found without being certain of the major organism involved, though the possibility of a mixed infection was kept in mind.

The suspected premises were visited by the Deputy Medical Officer of Health and the Chief Public Health Inspector and the proprietor interviewed, although at this time the evidence was still very slender. The proprietor's attention was drawn to some minor hygienic deficiencies and suggested remedies were acted upon. The method of food preparation was fully discussed, particularly the potted beef, *i.e.*, the purchase of raw meat, etc., and the various operations. All the food preparation staff were questioned on any recent illness and it was agreed that specimens of fæces should be submitted by each one. Other staff were not interrogated at this juncture as the proprietor stated no one had been away from work recently; a statement proved later to be incorrect as one shop assistant gave a history of diarrhœa and vomiting and in fact proved to be a carrier of *Salm. enteritidis*.

On 2nd November the proprietor agreed to cease manufacture and withdraw all potted beef from sale, although evidence was circumstantial and inconclusive.

Only two fresh cases occurred after the sale of potted beef was discontinued; one was a second case in a household and in the other no source of infection could be traced.

The following points emerge from this outbreak :—

- (1) The not unusual confusion at commencement of outbreak owing to the many types of salmonella which may cause food poisoning :—
 - (a) *Salmonella typhi-murium* at the start
 - (b) *Salmonella enteritidis*
 - (c) *Salmonella dublin* (Oxford Laboratory) later corrected to *Salmonella enteritidis*
- (2) The unusual implication of prepacked food being infected after packing.
- (3) The desirability of obtaining at least three negative consecutive stools from the whole personnel under suspicion.

The second instance concerned an outbreak of vomiting among army personnel, which commenced with dramatic suddenness on the evening of 26th November, 1956, and terminated equally suddenly with no new cases occurring after 9 a.m. on 27th November, 1956, and an investigation was requested by the army authorities.

In all, 35 soldiers were affected, four of whom were sufficiently ill to be removed to hospital and three others confined to their billets—one of these was a cook. All the affected persons felt quite well on the day after the outbreak.

The illness, which was related to a meal of fried sausages and tinned peas served to more than 100 men between 5 and 5.30 p.m. on 26th November, was characterised by precipitate vomiting, with a number of cases also exhibiting diarrhoea and the more severe cases shewing intense uncontrollable vomiting and diarrhoea with muscular pains in legs and abdomen.

Investigations shewed that the meal had been freshly prepared from proprietary branded goods and appeared quite wholesome at the time of preparation. The canteen, kitchen and utensils appeared clean and hygienic. Eleven persons involved in the handling of the food gave no history of illness or possible source of infection.

Specimens of cooked and uncooked food, two empty pea tins and two samples of vomit were forwarded to the Public Health Laboratory for examination, together with 26 specimens of faeces from various men, including the food handlers. All were reported as shewing no pathogens isolated. Eleven nasal swabs were taken from the food handlers; three were reported to have a growth of *Staph. aureus* and the remainder shewed no pathogens. Bacteriological investigation of the cases admitted to hospital also proved negative. Chemical analysis of a sample of tinned peas and two samples of vomit was also of no assistance as to the source of illness.

It was not possible to arrive at any definite conclusion as to the source or cause of the outbreak and the possibility of a "joke" was considered. The importance of strict hand hygiene amongst food handlers was stressed.

Sampling of Food and Drugs. (Table 12, page 76). 23 samples (all informal) were taken by the public health inspectors under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Normally, this work is done on a rota and samples are taken on a basis of 3 per 1,000 population, at least one-third being milks, but owing to acute shortage of staff the programme had to be seriously curtailed.

Sampling includes enforcement of the provisions of the Labelling of Food Order and the various food standards regulations.

The nature of the samples submitted to the Public Analyst is given in Table 12. 1 sample (4.3 per cent.) was found to be not genuine. (*See also Complaints and Contraventions*, page 37).

Complaints and Contraventions. 12 infringements were reported to the Committee during the year, 9 resulting from complaints and 3 from informal sampling, details of which are as follows :—

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955—SECTION 2	REMARKS
Grease in a loaf of bread	Warning letter sent
Insect larva in a bottle of sterilised milk	Prosecuted and fined £10
Piece of stone in a fruit loaf	Warning letter sent
Piece of string in a meat patty	Warning letter sent
Piece of paper in a sliced loaf	Warning letter sent
Piece of metal in a tin of corned beef packed in Beunos Aires	Letter sent to packers
Dirt in two bottles of milk	Prosecuted and fined £2
Shredded beef suet containing fibrous tissue and particles of meat which had started to decompose, rendering sample unfit for human food (Informal sample No. 12)	Letter sent
PUBLIC HEALTH (PRESERVATIVES, ETC., IN FOOD) REGULATIONS, 1927—REG- ULATION 4	
Beef sausages (Informal sample No. 18) failure to furnish a statement of added preservatives	Warning letter sent
Pork sausages (Informal sample No. 19) failure to furnish a statement of added preservatives	Warning letter sent
MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949 —ARTICLE 26	
Cement in milk bottle	Prosecuted and fined £2
Dirty milk bottle	Proceedings were instituted against the Company, who bottled the milk in another County Borough. The case was heard be- fore the Magistrates in that District and at the first hearing they queried whether the matter was within their jurisdiction and adjourned the hear- ing. At a subsequent hearing by the same Bench of Magistrates the case was dismissed.

VI.—PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Measles. 461 notifications of measles were received. The attack-rate was 4.53. There were no deaths.

Whooping Cough. 30 notifications of whooping cough were received. The attack-rate was 0.29. There were no deaths.

Immunisation against Whooping Cough. The number of children under five years of age immunised against whooping cough was 982; similarly, 13 children aged between five and fifteen were dealt with, making a total of 995 who completed the course during 1956. These figures include children immunised with combined diphtheria-pertussis and triple antigen (diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis) prophylactics.

Prophylactic whooping cough vaccine, a combined diphtheria-pertussis prophylactic and a triple antigen are available for the use of general practitioners free of charge on application to the Health Office.

Influenza. This is not a notifiable disease, consequently knowledge of its incidence is not very exact. Six deaths were certified as due to influenza, giving a death-rate of 0.06.

Acute Poliomyelitis. This disease is commonly called "infantile paralysis." Cases are notified as "paralytic" or "non-paralytic." "Paralytic" means that there are, or have been, signs of weakness or paralysis of muscles, either permanent or transient. "Non-paralytic" denotes that there have been no such signs.

One paralytic case was notified. This referred to a girl aged seventeen years who was treated in Harborough Road Hospital. She made satisfactory progress and has since commenced training for a nursing career.

Poliomyelitis Vaccination. Under the scheme sponsored by the Ministry of Health in January, 1956, 3,344 children born between 1947 and 1954 inclusive were registered for poliomyelitis vaccination out of an estimated 12,000 children in this age group, a response rate of 27.9 per cent.

Vaccination commenced on 14th May, 1956, and was carried out by the Medical Officers at special sessions held at the Infant Welfare Centre, St. Giles' Street.

The age groups of children to be vaccinated with the vaccine made available were selected by the Ministry and by the end of the year 332 children (176 males and 156 females) had completed the course of two injections and 3 children (2 males and 1 female) had been given one injection only. 262 of these children were of school age and the remaining 73 were below.

The number of children vaccinated is limited by the amount of vaccine made available and in consequence a large waiting list has been set up, which in itself creates problems such as change of address, etc. These special problems were the subject of some 200 written inquiries. In addition, many verbal inquiries have been answered.

Dysentery. The notifications of dysentery totalled 53, compared with the record number of 332 in 1955. All but two were stated to be Sonne dysentery. Eleven unnotified cases of Sonne dysentery were also discovered.

Paratyphoid. Two cases of paratyphoid B were notified. Both were infants and were treated in Harborough Road Hospital.

Meningococcal Infection. Notifications of this disease are rare, only six being received in Northampton in six years. The one in 1956 referred to a male of eighteen months, who seems to have made a good recovery after treatment at Harborough Road Hospital.

It is also recorded that a death of a non-notified case (a boy aged 10 years) occurred at Northampton General Hospital.

Erysipelas. 26 cases of erysipelas were notified. The local attack-rate was 0.26.

Smallpox. No smallpox contacts were under surveillance in Northampton County Borough during 1956.

Vaccination against Smallpox. Under the arrangements in accordance with the National Health Service there were 546 vaccinations (including 395 under one year of age) and 156 re-vaccinations during 1956. No cases were specially reported of generalised vaccinia or post-vaccinal encephalomyelitis, nor were there any deaths from other complications of vaccination.

99 of the children mentioned in the previous paragraph were vaccinated at the clinic held at St. Giles' Street Infant Welfare Centre.

Scarlet Fever. 115 notifications of scarlet fever were received. The local attack-rate was 1.13. 8 of these cases were treated in Harborough Road Hospital.

Diphtheria. No cases of diphtheria were notified in 1956. This means that only one case (*see* page 53 of the 1952 Report) has been recorded in the County Borough in the last eight years. The last diphtheria death occurred in 1946.

Immunisation against Diphtheria. The number of children under five years of age immunised against diphtheria was 1,055; similarly, 107 children aged between five and fifteen were dealt with, making a total of 1,162 who completed the course during 1956. 865 children received reinforcing injections.

There is record that 3,650 children under five years of age, of an estimated population of 6,900 in this age-group, had completed a full course of immunisation up to 31st December, 1956, equal to 52.9 per cent. In the age-group five to fourteen years inclusive the number immunised was 13,374 out of an estimated population of 16,000 or 83.6 per cent. Total for all children under fifteen years of age: 17,024 immunised out of an estimated population of 22,900, a percentage of 74.3 (immunity index 41.8). The immunity index is the proportion of children who have had a course of immunisation within the last five years.

Immunising material, including a combined diphtheria-pertussis prophylactic and a triple antigen (diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis prophylactic), is available to general practitioners free of charge on application to the Health Office.

Pneumonia. 58 notifications of primary or post-influenzal pneumonia were received. The local attack-rate was 0.57. 36 deaths were ascribed to pneumonia, giving a death-rate from this cause of 0.35.

Puerperal Pyrexia. 105 notifications of puerperal pyrexia were received. The attack-rate per thousand total births was 72.87. Only 47 of these cases were residents of Northampton County Borough. All but 2 of the women were treated in hospital. 101 of the confinements had taken place in institutions and 4 at home.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum. Two cases were notified in 1956. *Staphylococcus aureus* was found in smears from the eyes in one instance. It is satisfactory to know that the eyes cleared and no impairment of vision resulted in either case.

Venereal Diseases. The Special Clinic for venereal diseases held at Northampton General Hospital is under the administrative control of the Northampton and District Hospital Management Committee.

The times at which the clinics are held at Northampton General Hospital are given on page 19.

During 1956, new cases from Northampton County Borough totalled 90 (2 syphilis, 21 gonorrhœa, and 67 other conditions).

Cancer. The number of cancer deaths in Northampton during 1956 was 205, giving a local death-rate from this cause of 2.01; for England and Wales it was 2.08.

Bacteriology. All bacteriological work for the Health Department is done at the Public Health Laboratory, Northampton General Hospital.

Disinfection. The number of articles dealt with at the Disinfecting Station, St. Andrew's Road, was 237.

VII.—TUBERCULOSIS

General Remarks. After the experience of the last few years it is becoming increasingly clear that tuberculosis is at last becoming a controllable disease in the widest sense.

With the introduction of preventive vaccination amongst school children it is hoped that a considerable reduction in tuberculosis amongst young adults will take place during the next ten or fifteen years.

The fine new housing estates have materially helped in eliminating serious overcrowding, although there are still a few families where this exists. Statistics shew that where overcrowding is a serious problem, both the tuberculosis morbidity rate and the tuberculosis mortality rate remain high and every effort should therefore be made to eliminate overcrowding completely, and special priority should continue to be given where known cases of infectious tuberculosis exist.

The Mass X-ray surveys have undoubtedly made the population aware that tuberculosis may exist amongst their friends, or that they themselves may have tuberculosis without being aware of it.

The excellent results of treatment with the modern antibiotics are also being widely discussed and the old fear that a diagnosis of tuberculosis virtually meant a death sentence has now disappeared and has been replaced with the quiet confidence that, if treatment is necessary, practically all get well.

The most fruitful method of diagnosis still remains the liaison between the General Practitioner and the Chest Clinic and since the static miniature X-ray Unit has been opened to the public the percentage of cases obtained through this source has steadily increased.

During the year, a further step has been made by arranging for facilities for all women to be X-rayed during pregnancy, as it has been shewn that amongst young women the tuberculosis rate is considerably higher during pregnancy than amongst the rest of the population. In this connection, a monthly list of expectant mothers booked by the Queen's Institute of District Nursing is supplied to the Chest Physician.

There are still a considerable number of patients who have suffered from tuberculosis living in Northampton, but the number of infectious carriers of the disease has been greatly reduced by modern treatment and it is the hope of those working in this Department that in future all new cases will make a complete recovery and that none will remain a source of danger to others.

Details of the sessions held at the Chest Clinic are given on page 19.

The following relates to some of the anti-tuberculosis work during 1956 :—

Consultations	3,358
New out-patients	3,178
Number of contacts of new cases examined	302
Contacts examined of patients previously notified	1,038
Mantoux tests	1,334
X-ray examinations: Radiographic film	7,199
Fluorographic screen	44
A.P. (artificial pneumothorax) and P.P. (pneumoperitoneum) refills	31
Pathological specimens	1,389
Home visits: By nurses	597
By medical staff	110
Total number of attendances by patients	9,627

Notifications. (Tables 13 to 17, pages 76 to 78). During the year, 77 persons were notified for the first time as suffering from tuberculosis. Of these, 65 cases were respiratory and 12 non-respiratory. Their classification and age-groups are shewn in Tables 14 and 17. In addition, 18 cases already notified in other areas came into the County Borough.

Table 15 gives the occupations of new cases of respiratory tuberculosis.

Deaths. (Tables 13 to 17, pages 76 to 78). The number of deaths and the death-rates from tuberculosis per thousand of the population in 1956 were as follows :—

	NO. OF DEATHS	DEATH- RATES
Respiratory tuberculosis	20	0·20
Other forms	2	0·02
Totals	22	0·22

The total rate of 0·22 is the second lowest on record for the County Borough.

The death-rate for all forms for England and Wales in 1956 was 0·12 (respiratory 0·11, other forms 0·01), which is the lowest recorded.

Table 16 gives the total tuberculosis death-rates for Northampton and for England and Wales during the last ten years.

Revision of Register. The names of 3 notified persons were removed from the register in 1956, as the patients were regarded as having recovered.

On 31st December, 1956, there were 999 names on the Medical Officer of Health's register, 833 relating to respiratory and 166 to non-respiratory patients.

The number on the register of the Chest Clinic on that date was 880.

Park Workers. Two men were employed throughout the year on light duties under this scheme.

Housing. Housing has always been an important factor in the incidence and spread of tuberculosis. The co-operation of the Housing Committee in providing better living conditions, therefore, is invaluable. In December, 1956, the number of tuberculous persons living in Council houses was 377.

Care Work. The Care Committee continued to help long term patients and their families and other patients who needed temporary assistance while having treatment. The work is very encouraging as most patients are cured. The annual grant of £250 made by the County Borough Council, supplemented by money raised voluntarily by the Care Committee, was used to provide milk for patients unfit for work whose income was low. The Christmas Seal Sale brought in £268 17s. 2d. The usual grants for medical comforts, clothing, bedding, etc., were made and two patients who were allotted Council houses were helped to provide furnishings. Other help given is mentioned in the following paragraphs and is contained in the Care Committee's own Report and Accounts.

Extra Nourishment. Extra nourishment in the form of milk and, in two cases special foods, was granted through the funds of the Care Committee to 44 patients.

Almoner's Department. The Almoner at the Chest Clinic sees all new patients and helps them to make the necessary arrangements to have treatment. She is at Creaton Hospital on two days of each week and keeps in touch with Borough patients having treatment there so that she may give help and advice in financial or domestic difficulties. She sees all patients after their discharge to help them in re-adjusting themselves to normal life.

With the help of the Care Committee and the Northampton and District Hospitals Guild, arrangements were made during the year for four patients and one patient's widow to have seaside holidays. The Care Committee also helped financially six other patients who were able to make arrangements for holidays themselves.

The Club and Handicrafts Class, sponsored by the Care Committee for patients not well enough to work, met weekly and was organised by the Almoner. The Education Committee provided a teacher. The patients, from their own fund, paid for an outing to Stratford-upon-Avon and the Care Committee invited them to a party at Christmas. Seven patients left the Club during the year to return to work.

Rehabilitation. Most patients now recover completely and return to normal lives. Fifty patients are known to the Chest Clinic to have resumed work in 1956 and from the details given below it will be noted that the majority returned to their former jobs :—

Work resumed with former employers	35
Work found by Ministry of Labour	10
New work found by patients themselves	3
Taken on to staff of Creaton Hospital	2
	—
Total	50
	—

Mass Miniature Radiography. Extracts from the report on the sixth survey held in Northampton County Borough from January to July, 1955, were given on pages 43 and 44 of the previous Annual Report. No survey took place in 1956.

The Unit is managed by the Oxford Regional Hospital Board and operates from headquarters in Northampton.

Comparative figures for each of the surveys in Northampton County Borough are recorded below :—

SURVEY	DATE	PERSONS	ACTIVE CASES FOUND		NEW CASES PER 1,000 EXAMINED
		EXAMINED	TOTAL	NEW ONLY	
First	1945/6	14,544	79	76	5.22
Second	1946/7	12,242	36	34	2.78
Third	1947/8	12,585	25	25	1.99
Fourth	1949	13,493	29	27	2.00
Fifth	1952	27,962	55	55	1.97
Sixth	1955	27,081	47	46	1.70
		—	—	—	—
Totals		107,907	271	263	2.44
		—	—	—	—

B.C.G. Vaccination. During the year, 856 persons were vaccinated with B.C.G. vaccine. 162 of these were contacts and 694 school leavers.

Tuberculosis Regulations, etc. It was not found necessary to take any action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, which relate to persons suffering from respiratory tuberculosis employed in the milk trade.

There was no case of compulsory removal to hospital, under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, of any person suffering from tuberculosis of the respiratory tract who was in an infectious state and without proper lodging or accommodation and who was a serious risk of infection to other persons.

VIII.—MATERNAL AND CHILD CARE

Infant Mortality. (Tables 18 and 19, pages 78 and 79). There were 34 deaths under one year of age, the infant mortality being 24.1 per thousand live births registered, the highest recorded since 1951. The corresponding figure for England and Wales was 23.8, the lowest ever recorded in this country. Table 18 gives the infant mortality for England and Wales and Northampton for the last ten years for comparison.

The infant deaths are classified by cause in Table 19.

Neonatal Mortality. 24 of the 34 deaths mentioned in the preceding paragraph were of infants under four weeks of age. The neonatal mortality per thousand live births was thus 17.0, compared with 11.1 in 1955.

The neonatal mortality for England and Wales was 16.9 in 1956.

Notification of Births. (Tables 20 and 21, pages 79 and 80). 1,409 live births were registered, the birth-rate being 13.8, compared with 15.7 for England and Wales. 32 stillbirths were also registered.

It is a statutory requirement under Section 203 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for births to be notified within thirty-six hours to the Medical Officer of Health by any person in attendance upon the mother at the time of, or within six hours after, the birth. This, of course, is in addition to registration.

2,626 live births and 73 stillbirths were notified, making a total of 2,699 (*see* Table 20). Table 21 shews the sources of notification.

1,361 births were investigated by the health visitors. The remaining births occurred either in larger houses, or the mothers, resident outside the County Borough, came here for their confinement and returned home later.

529 babies (including stillborn babies) were born of primiparæ.

Stillbirths. 32 stillbirths were registered, giving a rate of 0.31 per thousand of the population. The rate expressed per thousand total births (including stillbirths) registered was 22.2, compared with 23.0 for England and Wales.

73 stillbirths were notified, 40 relating to mothers from surrounding areas. The remaining 33 stillbirths were investigated (*see* tabulation below). 8 of these occurred in primigravida. 2 had four previous pregnancies and 1 had nine. In 22 cases labour was premature.

CAUSES OF STILLBIRTH

Maternal		11*
Toxæmia	5	
Hypertension	3	
Rhesus incompatibility	2	
Pulmonary embolus	1	
Cause unknown		9
Fœtus fresh	6	
Fœtus macerated	3	
Accidents of labour		13
Ante-parium hæmorrhage	3	
Cord twice round neck	3	
Extended breech	3	
Prolapsed cord	3	
Vasa prævia	1	

*Fœtus macerated, 10.

A “ stillborn child ” is a child which has issued forth from its mother after the twenty-eighth week of pregnancy and which did not at any time after being completely expelled from its mother breathe or shew any sign of life.

Disposal of Fœti. In the early part of the year 1956 the Minister of Health, through the Principal Regional Medical Officer, inquired concerning the disposal of fœti (up to the 28th week).

An investigation shewed that the practice at the General Hospital, Northampton, is to burn fœti, with the placenta, in the Hospital's incinerator.

In domiciliary practice the fœti are burned on the domestic fire or in the incinerator at the Headquarters of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing.

Health Visiting. Twelve whole-time health visitors were on the staff at the end of 1956, which was nine below establishment. Their time was also partly devoted to work in the School Health Service and tuberculosis visiting under a co-ordinated scheme.

Their work is summarised below in the form required by the Ministry of Health :—

To expectant mothers :—

First visits	635
Total visits	803

To children under one year of age :—

First visits	1,312
Total visits	10,204

To children aged one and under two years :—	
Total visits	2,637
To children aged two but under five years :—	
Total visits	5,269
To tuberculous households :—	
Total visits	528
To other cases :—	
Total visits	491
To children under five years :—	
Total number visited	6,358
To families or households :—	
Total number visited	5,098
Doctors contacted by health visitors	69
Health visitors contacted by doctors	58

Health of Children. The lack of health visitors has prevented any extension of their work beyond the mothers and children under five, but in the normal course of their duties they pay particular attention to problem families.

27 “ bad ” families have been under constant supervision and approximately 100 “ borderline ” families have received special attention.

Child Welfare Centres. Table 23 (page 81) gives the average attendances and consultations at the fifteen child welfare centres.

A summary of the 1956 statistics is given below :—

Number of children who first attended a centre of this Local Health Authority and who at their first attendance were under one year of age	1,097
Total number of children under five years of age who attended	3,305
Total attendances	41,004
Average number of children per weekly session	58
Average number of mothers per weekly session	51

Concern is expressed at the risk of possible infection in Infant Welfare Centres where the number of mothers exceeds 50, plus children, during the course of a session. During the year, the average attendance of mothers has exceeded 50 at seven of the fifteen centres.

Voluntary Work. Extracts from the report of the Northampton Maternity and Infant Welfare Voluntary Association are given below :—

The Mothers' Club ran very successfully through the winter months. This Club is held for mothers who attend Welfare Centres, and dress-making, toy-making, leather work and other crafts are taught. Two coffee mornings and an exhibition were held in connection with the Club.

The speaker at the Annual Meeting on 15th June, 1956, was Dr. Elspeth Warwick, who spoke on "Mothers and Children in Nigeria."

Two delegates attended the National Association for Maternal and Child Welfare Annual Conference at Cardiff.

Centre mothers were sent on holidays to the seaside after illness and Christmas parcels were sent to mothers in need of help. The money for this help came from the Voluntary Association Social Fund.

Maternity Homes. There are two registered nursing homes in the County Borough (*see* list on page 23). Sixteen visits of inspection were paid by the Assistant Medical Officer.

Midwives. 34 midwives were employed in Northampton County Borough on 31st December, 1956, as follows:—

Queen's Institute of District Nursing (including 2 on administrative staff)	7
St. Edmund's Hospital	9
Barratt Maternity Home	15
Other maternity homes	3
	—
Total	34
	—

Administration of Inhalational Analgesics. All the above midwives held a certificate of competence in the use of gas-air analgesic apparatus.

Out of the 336 cases attended by Queen's Nurses in 1956, analgesics were administered in 305 (90·8 per cent.). The Institute had six sets of apparatus in use.

Domiciliary Midwifery. (Table 22, page 80). The Northampton Branch of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing undertake domiciliary midwifery on behalf of the County Borough Council by agreement under Section 23 of the National Health Service Act, 1946.

The Queen's Nurses attended 335 cases as maternity nurses and 1 case as a midwife during 1956.

Table 22 shews the number of domiciliary cases attended by midwives during the last five years.

Ante-natal and Post-natal Work. No regular ante-natal and post-natal care is given by the Local Authority; casual cases only are seen. 6 ante-natal cases were seen in 1956. 714 patients attended for blood tests.

Cases booked for home confinement receive ante-natal care at the Queen's Institute of District Nursing Clinics and are also seen by their family doctor. 3,145 attendances were made by 551 expectant mothers in 196 sessions during 1956.

All cases booked for confinement at the Barratt Maternity Home receive their ante-natal care at the Barratt Home Clinic; patients booked for St. Edmund's Maternity Unit attend the Ante-natal Clinic at that hospital; these Ante-natal Clinics are under the control of the Northampton and District Hospital Management Committee.

Mothercraft classes were held throughout the year and were attended by 280 mothers.

Maternal Mortality. (Table 24, page 81). According to the tabulation received from the Registrar-General, two maternal deaths were assigned to Northampton County Borough during 1956 (*see* cause 30 in Table C after page 106). The maternal mortality was, therefore, 1.39 per thousand total births, compared with 0.56 for England and Wales. Table 24 gives the rates for the last ten years for comparison.

Dental Treatment. (Table 25, page 82). Children under school age and expectant and nursing mothers are treated by the dental officer. One session each week is set apart for this work.

Table 25 shews the numbers dealt with during 46 sessions and the forms of treatment.

A qualified radiographer takes all radiographs. The dental officer examines them and on rare occasions seeks confirmation from Northampton General Hospital.

Dentures are made at a local prosthetic laboratory.

Care of Premature Infants. 111 premature infants (*i.e.*, babies weighing $5\frac{1}{2}$ lb. or less at birth) relating to mothers normally resident in Northampton County Borough were notified and were the subject of special investigations.

Of the 19 premature babies born at home, 9 were transferred to hospital and 16 survived the first month of life.

Of the 92 born in hospital or nursing home, 21 were stillborn and 61 survived the first month of life.

These figures shew that 77 of the 90 (85.5 per cent.) of the County Borough premature babies born alive survived the first month.

Cots, bedding, blankets, hot water bottles, and clothing are available on loan for such infants nursed at home.

Immunisation. The number of children under five years of age who completed the full course of injections during the year was :—

Diphtheria	86
Combined diphtheria and whooping cough	934
Whooping cough	13
Triple antigen	35

454 of the above immunisations were carried out by general practitioners, 555 were dealt with at clinics under the maternity and child welfare scheme, and 59 were done at the School Clinic.

Vaccination. In an attempt to increase the infant vaccination "acceptance rate," a clinic for children under five years of age was held at St. Giles' Street Infant Welfare Centre from 19th January, 1955, onwards. 99 children were vaccinated at this clinic during 1956.

Care of Unmarried Mothers and Their Children. There are no special arrangements, but each health visitor is responsible for those residing in her district and co-operates with voluntary agencies working in this field. Where desirable, the children are admitted to nurseries.

(See also "Admissions to Mother and Baby Homes" on page 64).

Day Nurseries. The only day nursery (Spencer) has accommodation for 45 children under two years of age. The average attendance was 25 and at the end of the year there were 38 children on the register. 51 visits (including two medical inspections) were paid to this nursery by the Assistant Medical Officer and, in addition, all children were medically inspected before admission.

46 visits (including three medical inspections) were also paid to Rawlings Residential Nursery managed by the Children Committee.

Nurseries and Child Minders. At the end of 1956, three daily minders (providing for 22 children) were on the register kept under the Nurseries and Child Minders Regulation Act, 1948. Regular visits were paid by members of the staff.

Distribution of Welfare Foods. Responsibility for the distribution of national dried milk, cod liver oil, vitamin A and D tablets, and orange juice was taken over by the Local Health Authority from the Local Office of the Ministry of Food on 28th June, 1954, in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 10/54 dated 7th April, 1954. Northampton County Borough Council's proposals under Section 22 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, were modified accordingly and approved by the Minister of Health on 6th August, 1954.

Two female assistants operate the Main Distribution Centre (Covered Market, Sheep Street). In addition, voluntary workers distribute welfare foods at eleven outlying infant welfare centres. All ordering, accounting, etc., is carried out in the Health Department.

During 1956, the following quantities of welfare foods were issued to beneficiaries :—

COMMODITY	MAIN CENTRE	OUTLYING CENTRES	TOTAL
National dried milk (tins)	27,097	10,173	37,270
Cod liver oil (bottles)	8,572	3,795	12,367
Vitamin A and D tablets (packets) ...	4,546	1,230	5,776
Orange juice (bottles)	69,870	27,389	97,259

IX.—MENTAL HEALTH

Mental Deficiency—Ascertainment. During 1956, seventeen new cases were notified from the following sources under the provisions of Section 57 of the Education Act, 1944, or Section 30 of the Mental Deficiency Act, 1913 :—

Local Education Authority	10
Other sources	7
	—
Total	17
	—

These were dealt with as follows :—

Placed under statutory supervision	12
Placed under voluntary supervision	2
Admitted to hospital	3
	—
Total	17
	—

Statistics. There were 471 mental defectives on the register at 31st December, 1956; these were classed as follows :—

	MALES	FEMALES	TOTALS
In hospitals and homes	74	75	149
Under Guardianship Orders	1	1	2
Under statutory supervision	109	105	214
Under voluntary supervision	37	43	80
In “ Places of Safety ”	—	—	—
	—	—	—
County Borough cases ...	221	224	445
On licence from hospitals (not Northampton County Borough cases)	—	26	26
	—	—	—
Totals	221	250	471
	—	—	—

Supervision. Local health authorities are responsible for the care of mentally defective persons, *i.e.*, their ascertainment, supervision, and training. The main source of ascertainment is the local education authority, though some cases come through other agencies, such as the health visitor, family doctor, etc.

Most mental defectives known to this Authority continue to live in their own homes and receive visits of supervision. Hospital accommodation is still urgently required for a number of cases, though it is gratifying to know that the waiting list was reduced to three by the end of 1956.

Parents are encouraged to, and do, come to the Mental Health Officer for advice or assistance regarding their particular child or adult. It is important that those surrounding a mentally defective person should be helped to understand and deal with his nature, so that he may be given the best chance of developing.

Co-operation with Regional Hospital Boards. A considerable amount of time has been devoted by the Mental Health Officers relative to various inquiries detailed below :—

Reports on licence cases	103★
Reports on homes regarding suitability for holiday or licence	26
Special reports by medical and mental health officers	7
	<hr/>
Total	136
	<hr/>

★ In addition, 138 visits and interviews were made for which written reports were not required.

Licence. One of the chief aims of the mental deficiency hospital is to prepare and train as many patients as possible to fit into the community. At the end of the year, 4 male and 24 female patients were on licence from various hospitals.

These patients were supervised and periodically reported on to their appropriate authorities. The development of an adequate relationship between the patient and the Mental Health Officer is very important.

Thanks are due to those employers who have willingly co-operated in providing opportunities for patients to have trial periods in work. This co-operation has been a great factor in efforts to befriend the defective by every means possible. A patient coming straight from a hospital, perhaps after many years there, lacks experience of life and people, and understanding on the part of employers and fellow employees will often avert a breakdown.

Guardianship. At the end of 1956, two cases were under Guardianship in accordance with Section 30 of the Mental Deficiency Act, 1913.

Hospital Accommodation. Fifteen new cases were admitted to the following establishments :—

Borocourt, near Reading	3
Bromham Hospital, near Bedford	1
Ellen Terry Home, Reigate	1
Manor House, Aylesbury	1
Pewsey Hospital, Wilts.	9
	<hr/>
Total	15
	<hr/>

Although local health authorities are responsible for the initial care, certification, and conveyance to hospitals of patients suffering from mental deficiency, the provision of accommodation is not their responsibility—a fact not generally realised.

Three cases were urgently awaiting hospital care on 31st December, 1956, these were classed as follows :—

	MALES	FEMALES	TOTALS
Children under 16 years	1	—	1
Adults (over 16 years)	1	1	2
	—	—	—
Totals	2	1	3
	—	—	—

These figures relate to mental defectives within the community and not to any mentally defective patients accommodated in St. Crispin Hospital, Duston, Northampton, under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts, 1890—1930, who should be detained in mental deficiency institutions. At the end of the year, there were 26 cases (9 males, 17 females) in this hospital awaiting removal.

Patients with suitable homes were granted holiday leave at varying times throughout the year. A report on the suitability of the home to which the patient will proceed is usually submitted to the medical superintendent of the hospital where the patient is detained before holiday leave is granted.

One patient was admitted to a “ Place of Safety ” under Section 15, Mental Deficiency Act, 1913, as immediate hospital care was imperative.

Relatives of patients accommodated in the Pewsey and Borocourt Groups of hospitals find it very difficult, owing to the distance and high cost of travelling, to see them. To help in this difficulty, arrangements have been made to transport them by coach at a much reduced cost. This is planned to take place at regular intervals and relatives are very grateful for this assistance.

At the end of the year, 149 Northampton County Borough patients were accommodated at the following establishments :—

	MALES	FEMALES	TOTALS
Borocourt, near Reading (and ancillary hospitals)	10	14	24
Brentry Colony, Bristol	1	—	1
Bromham Hospital, near Bedford	22	15	37
Ellen Terry Home, Reigate	1	1	2
Hortham Hospital, Bristol	1	—	1
House of Help, Bath	—	2	2
Leavesden Hospital, Watford	1	—	1
Manor House, Aylesbury	2	5	7
Mount Tabor Approved Home, Wingrave	—	2	2
Pewsey Hospital, Wilts. (and ancillary hospitals)	20	12	32
Princess Christian's Farm Colony, Hildenborough	1	1	2
Rampton Hospital, Retford	4	3	7
Rockhall House, Bath	—	1	1
St. Agnes' Approved Home, Caversham	1	—	1
St. Edmund's Hospital, Northampton ...	4	8	12

	MALES	FEMALES	TOTALS
St. Francis' School, Buntingford	1	—	1
St. Margaret's Hospital, Birmingham ...	—	1	1
St. Mary's Home, Buxted	—	1	1
St. Mary's Home, Painswick	—	1	1
Stoke Park Hospital, Bristol	4	4	8
Totterdown Hall, Weston-super-Mare ...	—	1	1
Whittington Hall, Chesterfield	—	3	3
Winslow Hospital, Bucks.	1	—	1
	—	—	—
Totals	74	75	149
	—	—	—

Short-term Care in Cases of Urgency. During 1956, twelve patients were admitted to establishments for varying periods of short-term care in accordance with the Council's amended proposals under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946.

Handicraft Centre. Persons attending were as follows :—

	JUNIORS (under 16 years)		SENIORS (over 16 years)		TOTALS
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
On register 1/1/56	15	7	7	21	50
Admitted during 1956	3	6	—	—	9
Left during 1956	—	—	1	2	3
Died during 1956	1	—	—	—	1
Attained 16 years	—2	—2	+2	+2	—
On register 31/12/56	15	11	8	21	55

The average attendance throughout 1956 was 86·5 per cent.

Of the 55 on the register at the end of the year, two senior boys and nine senior girls attended in the afternoons only.

On 31st December, 1956, there was a waiting list of twelve mentally handicapped persons, including three senior girls over 16 years and two boys and one girl under seven years.

A party of 22 senior girls and mixed juniors, in the charge of the Supervisor and one staff member, travelled by coach to Rhyl and stayed at a private guest house for one week (6th to 13th July, 1956). The house was well appointed and in a convenient position for such a party; the food was excellent and a real homely atmosphere prevailed. The weather was good and a great variety of outdoor activities filled a happy and beneficial week.

The annual outing was held on 29th June. Two coach loads, including Centre staff, children, parents, and friends, spent a happy day at Felixstowe despite poor weather.

On 25th October the children were taken in the afternoon to see the Queen Mother pass on her way to Northampton General Hospital.

Two open days were held this year. On 4th December the Committee and friends visited the Centre. The Centre was honoured with the presence of the Mayor (Councillor T. H. Cockerill, J.P.) on this occasion. The party saw all activities of the Centre work. A repeat open day on 6th December was for parents of the children.

The party day and breaking up for Christmas took place on 20th December. Juniors had their party in the afternoon and seniors in the evening. The innovation of two parties in place of one big one was highly successful. The parties followed the pattern of previous years. Thanks are due to friends for gifts in money and kind and to those who help in many ways on special occasions at the Centre.

Special School After-care Committee. The Voluntary After-care Committee help and advise parents of educationally sub-normal children who are not notified to the Medical Officer of Health.

Domiciliary visits are paid to see the persons concerned, as well as their parents, and brief records of the visits are kept by the Honorary Secretary (Miss D. R. Harbard).

A representative of the Youth Employment Bureau serves on the Committee and gives practical advice and help in placing young persons in suitable employment.

A benevolent fund provides small gifts in times of sickness.

Lunacy—Statistics. The following summarises the work of this Mental Health Section during 1956 :—

	MALES	FEMALES	TOTALS
Examined by Doctor and Magistrate ...	—	8	8
Certified and removed to St. Crispin Hospital	—	7	7
Certified and removed to other hospitals	—	1	1
Cases examined by Magistrate	32	61	93
Admitted to St. Crispin Hospital on 14-Day Orders	30	52	82
No Order made	2	9	11
Admitted to St. Crispin Hospital on 3-Day Orders	14	15	29
Transfers from St. Andrew's Hospital to St. Crispin Hospital (certified)	—	2	2
Transfers from St. Andrew's Hospital to other hospitals (certified)	1	2	3
Transfers from St. Andrew's Hospital to other hospitals (others)	—	3	3

During 1956 action under the Lunacy Acts had to be taken in the case of 34 persons (10 males and 24 females) over the age of sixty-five years who were admitted to St. Crispin Hospital.

People of their own volition are accepting the treatment available to them and enter St. Crispin Hospital as voluntary patients. Most satisfactory results are achieved with the intensive efforts that are made to prevail upon appropriate cases to accept voluntary treatment. Admissions under compulsory powers are consequently few.

Work in the Community. The provision of prevention, care and after-care services under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, has continued.

Recommendations relating to after-care of three males and nine females were referred by the Physician Superintendent of St. Crispin Hospital during 1956. It was found necessary to re-admit one male and one female on Orders.

X.—WELFARE

Welfare Services. The National Assistance Act, 1948, which came into operation on 5th July, 1948, made provision for comprehensive services falling into two main groups :—

- (1) National Assistance, taking the form chiefly of cash allowances to persons in need;
- (2) Residential accommodation for the aged, the infirm, and others who require care and attention to be provided in this way, with special welfare services for the blind, partially sighted, deaf or dumb, and other persons who are substantially and permanently handicapped by illness, injury, or congenital deformity.

The assistance rendered under heading (1) is the concern of the National Assistance Board.

Local authorities are responsible for the services under heading (2) and for this purpose the following schemes made by Northampton County Borough Council under the Sections mentioned of the National Assistance Act, 1948, have been approved by the Minister of Health :—

SECTIONS	SCHEMES	DATES OF APPROVAL
21	Provision of residential accommodation	18-5-49
29 and 30	Provision of welfare services for blind persons and partially sighted persons	12-5-49 (amending scheme 18-6-55)
29 and 30	Provision of welfare services for deaf or dumb persons	20-1-55

The Council, however, decided on 6th December, 1954, to defer a draft scheme for the provision of welfare services for handicapped persons other than those in the classes mentioned above.

All matters relating to the discharge of the welfare functions of the Council under the National Assistance Acts stand referred to the Health Committee, who specially appoint a Welfare Services Sub-Committee (*see page 11*). These functions are discharged under the general adminis-

tration of the Medical Officer of Health, who is also designated Welfare Administrator. A Welfare Officer and two Assistant Welfare Officers are on the staff of the Health Department. The assistants are mainly concerned with blind welfare.

Blind Persons. At the end of 1956 the number of blind persons registered in Northampton County Borough was 262, classified as follows :—

	MALES	FEMALES	TOTALS
At school for the blind	—	1	1
At other school	—	1	1
In homes for the blind	5	4	9
In other residential accommodation	1	3	4
In mental hospitals	4	3	7
In mental deficiency hospitals	2	3	5
In other hospitals	1	12	13
Mental defectives at home	2	—	2
Employed in open industry	15	2	17
Employed in sheltered industry	22	8	30
Training for open employment	—	1	1
Unemployed but capable of and available for work	1	1	2
Not available for employment	50	120	170
Totals	103	159	262

6 of the above were trained at St. Dunstan's and 46 were registered under the Disabled Persons (Employment) Act, 1944.

50 men and 108 women (total 158) were over sixty-five years of age.

33 persons were newly registered as blind during 1956 after examination and certification by an ophthalmologist of consultant status. Registration is voluntary.

According to the definition in Section 64 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, "blind person" means a person so blind as to be unable to perform any work for which eyesight is essential.

A handicraft class for the blind and partially sighted is held on Thursday afternoons at the Central Methodist Community Centre, Regent Square. 42 classes were held during 1956, at which there were 1,888 attendances (average attendance 45). Outings to Bourton-on-the-Water and Woodhouse Eaves were arranged during the summer for persons attending the class and a Christmas party was held.

Partially Sighted Persons. In the approved scheme under Section 29 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, provision was made for the promotion of the welfare of partially sighted persons. Admission to the register is dependent upon a certificate from an ophthalmologist. Registration is voluntary. The register contained the names of 36 persons on 31st December, 1956, made up as follows :—

	MALES	FEMALES	TOTALS
Class A—Persons near and prospectively blind (aged 16 years and over)	3	15	18
Class B—Persons mainly industrially handicapped (16 years and over) ...	2	2	4
Class C—Persons requiring observation only (16 years and over)	4	4	8
Class D—Children aged 5 and under 16 years	4	2	6
Totals	13	23	36

9 of the above persons were newly registered as partially sighted during 1956.

The sight of two partially sighted persons deteriorated and they were certified as blind during the year.

Persons appropriate for designation as “ partially sighted ” are those who, although not blind within the meaning of Section 64 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, are nevertheless certified after examination to be substantially and permanently handicapped by congenital defective vision; or to be suffering from defective vision of a substantial and permanently handicapping character caused by illness or injury; or, in the case of children, to have such bad vision that they cannot follow the ordinary school curriculum without detriment to their sight or to their educational development, but they can be educated by special methods involving the use of sight.

Incidence of Blindness. (Tables 26 and 27, page 83). In accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 2/53 dated 22nd January, 1953, and subsequent circulars, Table 26 is inserted giving information as to the incidence of blindness with particular reference to the treatment of cataract and glaucoma in old people.

There were no cases of retrolental fibroplasia among premature infants.

Two cases of ophthalmia neonatorum were notified in 1956. Vision was not impaired in either instance.

Table 27 shews the number of blind and partially sighted persons registered in Northampton County Borough on various dates since blind welfare was undertaken by the Local Authority under the National Assistance Act, 1948.

Deaf or Dumb Persons. A scheme under Sections 29 and 30 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, for the provision of welfare services for the deaf or dumb was approved by the Minister of Health on 20th January, 1955. For the discharge of the Council's functions under this scheme, the Northamptonshire and Rutland Mission to the Deaf carry out these duties on an agency basis for the Local Authority. An annual grant of £500 is made to the Mission.

The persons to whom the scheme applies can be divided into two groups, viz :—

- (1) *The deaf.* This class (often described as the “ deaf and dumb ”) includes persons who were born deaf and also persons who lost their hearing so early in life that they have little or no recollection of sound and have had to be educated in the same way as those who were born deaf. Few succeed in acquiring the use of normal speech. The great majority use only a manual sign language or a combination of signs and restricted speech, in which the power of self-expression is limited and in any case varies considerably with the individual. Many are unable to read fluently and can do no more than gather the general substance of simple printed matter.
- (2) *The hard of hearing.* These have lost their hearing wholly or in part after acquiring ordinary speech and after being educated as hearing persons.

Registration is voluntary. The numbers on the registers on 31st December, 1956, were as follows :—

	MALES	FEMALES	TOTALS
Deaf	31	26	57
Hard of hearing	6	10	16
	—	—	—
Totals	37	36	73
	—	—	—

In a statement supplied by the Chaplain-Secretary of the Northants. and Rutland Mission to the Deaf the following activities are recorded as having been carried out by the Mission :—

On average, members are paid routine visits quarterly, but where there is need for visiting, *e.g.*, the aged, infirm, deaf-blind, etc., visits are made monthly and more frequently when there is special need. Lip reading lessons and instruction in the manual alphabet are given where necessary to persons at home.

The exchange of batteries and repairs, etc., to hearing aids is undertaken for persons unable to make their own arrangements.

Social Clubs are held twice a week and the average attendance is between 30 and 35. A Social Club Committee consisting of twenty members under the Chairmanship of the Chaplain-Secretary is elected annually at the General Meeting and arranges all the Club's activities.

Church services are a feature of the Mission.

During the year, three tea parties and gatherings were held within the County Borough and coach transport was provided to three others in surrounding areas. Three outings were also organised—two to the seaside and one to London, with a guided tour of places of interest.

Help was also given in the following ways :—

Holiday arrangements made for persons going away, including all arrangements and an interpreter through Customs, etc., both at home and abroad, for a man travelling to Holland.

Suitable employment found for two school leavers and a spastic cripple aged 26 years. Employment and accommodation found for two other persons and accommodation for a homeless person.

Persons taken to and from hospital and doctors' surgeries where interpreter was required.

Complete removal arrangements made for at least one deaf family.

Epileptics and Spastics. The list of handicapped pupils on page 103 includes 5 epileptics (3 boys, 2 girls) and 13 scholars (10 boys, 3 girls) suffering from cerebral palsy.

The Spastic Unit at the John Greenwood Shipman Convalescent Home is referred to on page 99.

Apart from two women in epileptic colonies and one epileptic male in Part III. Accommodation, St. Edmund's Hospital, no other cases are known to the Welfare Sub-Department. However, when a scheme for handicapped persons other than the blind, partially sighted, and deaf or dumb is in operation in this County Borough, no doubt further epileptics will come to light.

Residential Accommodation. For clarity, this subject is treated under appropriate headings :—

(1) *Controlled by the Local Authority*

(a) **ST. EDMUND'S HOSPITAL.** St. Edmund's Hospital is a former public assistance "mixed" institution which, since the "appointed day" (5th July, 1948) of the National Health Service Act, 1946, has been a joint user establishment. Under the National Assistance Act, 1948, accommodation is now provided there for 27 persons who are the responsibility of Northampton County Borough Council. The larger users of the premises are the Oxford Regional Hospital Board.

With the opening of "Barnfield" and "The Priory" Old Persons' Homes it has been possible to reduce the numbers in Part III. Accommodation at St. Edmund's Hospital from 77 to 27, but this number is likely to be increased in the near future. However, it is anticipated that it will be possible for Northampton County Borough Council to vacate St. Edmund's Hospital altogether by the end of 1958.

24 persons (8 men, 6 women, 3 boys, and 7 girls) were in residence on 31st December, 1956.

The standard charge is £5 5s. 0d. per week.

As there is no "family unit" accommodation, St. Edmund's Hospital is used for this purpose, which means that the old poor law procedure of separating man and wife, parents and children, is still necessary.

Residents are encouraged to work in the hospital and provision is made for them to receive a monetary recompense not exceeding 10s. 6d. per week for performing this work.

A chiropody service is available free of charge for residents in Part III. Accommodation.

(b) **KINGS HEATH HOME OF REST.** This Home, built specially for old persons, provides accommodation for 33 aged persons (16 men and 17 women).

On 31st December, 1956, the Home was fully occupied.

The standard charge is £5 5s. 0d. per week.

As at St. Edmund's Hospital, residents are encouraged to work and provision is made for them to receive a monetary recompense not exceeding 10s. 6d. per week for performing this work.

A chiropody service is also available free of charge for the residents.

(c) **"BARNFIELD," 127 HARLESTONE ROAD.** Reference was made in the last two annual reports to the conversion and adaptation of "Barnfield" to accommodate 26 aged men and women.

The first residents (13 men and 13 women) were admitted on 19th and 21st September, 1956, respectively.

The opening ceremony was performed by the Mayoress (Mrs. T. H. Cockerill) on 4th October, 1956.

On 31st December, 1956, the Home was fully occupied.

The standard charge is £5 5s. 0d. per week.

As at the other Homes, residents are encouraged to work and a chiropody service is available for the residents free of charge.

The final cost of acquisition, adaptation and furnishing, etc., is in the region of £16,500.

(d) **"THE PRIORY," 260 BILLING ROAD EAST.** Reference was made in the last annual report to the taking over of "The Priory" (the Northampton Remand Home) by the Health Committee for use as an Old Persons' Home for 24 men.

There is a certain amount of adaptation still to be carried out and it is hoped that this will be completed during 1957.

The first residents (6 men) were admitted on 12th June, 1956, and by 19th November, 1956, the Home was fully occupied by 24 men.

On 31st December, 1956, the Home was fully occupied.

As at the other Homes, residents are encouraged to work and a chiropody service is available free of charge for the residents.

The final cost for the transfer, adaptation and furnishing of this Home is likely to be in the region of £13,500.

(e) NOS. 9, 10, AND 11 ST. GEORGE'S AVENUE. These properties have been acquired by Compulsory Purchase Order made under Section 58 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, for the provision of residential accommodation under Part III. of the Act.

There is accommodation for 38 aged men and women, together with a small staff.

It is hoped that this Home will be ready for occupation early in 1958.

The cost of acquisition was £2,882 ; adaptations will cost approximately £20,350.

(f) WAITING LIST. On 31st December, 1956, 26 men and 38 women (total 64) were awaiting admission to Part III. Accommodation. 14 of these were at St. Crispin Hospital, 18 at St. Edmund's Hospital, 21 in other hospitals, and 11 at home.

(2) *Not controlled by the Local Authority*

(a) NAZARETH HOUSE. This establishment is situated within Northampton County Borough.

Arrangements are in operation under Section 26 (1) of the National Assistance Act, 1948, whereby twelve beds at Nazareth House are available for residential accommodation of persons in need of care and attention. The County Borough Council pay an agreed sum per head per week, less payments made by the residents.

Six men and six women were in residence under this scheme on 31st December, 1956.

(b) OLD PERSONS' HOMES OUTSIDE NORTHAMPTON. This accommodation is mostly for the convenience of the persons concerned.

On 31st December, 1956, the Council had undertaken financial responsibility for residents in the following homes :—

	MALES	FEMALES	TOTALS
Brackley House, Brackley	—	1	1
British Legion Halsey House, Cromer ...	1	—	1
Christadelphian Rest Home, Southport	1	—	1
Danetre Hospital, Daventry	1	—	1
Green Pastures, Winterdyne, Bewdley ...	—	1	1
Renny Lodge, Newport Pagnell	—	1	1
“ Rossmore,” Leamington Spa	—	1	1
Salvation Army Home, Netherfield House, Stanstead Abbots	1	—	1
Salvation Army Home, “ Oakfield,” Radcliffe-on-Trent	—	1	1
The Dales, Upper Sheringham	—	1	1
The Priory, West Worthing	1	—	1
	—	—	—
Totals	5	6	11
	—	—	—

(c) SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION. On 31st December, 1956, the Council had accepted responsibility for handicapped persons in the following homes :—

	MALES	FEMALES	TOTALS
“ Wardington Court ” Home for the Blind, Northampton	3	—	3
“ Darsdale ” Home for the Blind, Raunds	—	2	2
Chalfont Colony for Epileptics	—	1	1
David Lewis Manchester Epileptic Colony	—	1	1
Red House Nursing Home, Tunbridge Wells	—	1	1
Roper House for the Deaf, Canterbury ...	—	1	1
	—	—	—
Totals	3	6	9
	—	—	—

(d) HOMES FOR DISABLED AND OLD PERSONS. For convenience and reference a list is given below of residential accommodation in Northampton County Borough for old and handicapped persons :—

HOME	ACCOMMODATION
Nazareth House, Kingsthorpe Road	28 disabled and old persons (9 men, 19 women)
Oakwood Home, 8 The Drive	11 old persons, either sex
“ Roseland,” 41 Park Avenue South	12 old persons, either sex
St. Christopher’s, Abington Park Crescent	32 old persons, either sex
St. George’s Homestead, 25/26 St. George’s Avenue	22 aged women
“ The Briers,” 69 Collingwood Road	9 old persons, either sex
“ Wardington Court ” Home for the Blind, Welford Road	20 disabled and old persons, either sex

These seven homes, with accommodation for 134 persons, are all registered under Section 37 of the National Assistance Act, 1948.

Two other homes are exempt from registration, viz :—

HOME	ACCOMMODATION
Bethany Homestead, Kingsley Road	In cottages; 30-40 persons In rest rooms; 15 persons
Methodist Homestead, Homestead Way	In cottages; 20 persons

There is thus residential accommodation in these two homesteads for 65 to 75 persons.

Accommodation for short periods is also available at the following :—

St. John's Hospital, Weston Favell

“ Elmleigh,” Dallington (W.V.S.)

(3) *Total Accommodation available in Northampton*

	PLACES
Provided or controlled by the Local Authority :—	
“ Barnfield ”	26
Kings Heath Home of Rest	33
Part III. Accommodation, St. Edmund's Hospital ...	27
“ The Priory ”	24
Provided by Voluntary Organisations, etc.:—	
7 registered homes	134
2 homesteads exempt from registration	65—75
GRAND TOTAL	309—319

(4) *Adaptation of Small Homes*

During the last seven years, 30 properties have been inspected with a view to their adaptation and use for residential accommodation.

The County Borough Council made Compulsory Purchase Orders in respect of two of these properties, viz : “ Barnfield,” 127 Harlestone Road, and Nos. 9, 10, and 11 St. George's Avenue, Northampton. (See pages 60 and 61).

General experience has demonstrated the scarcity in Northampton of property suitable for adaptation as old persons' homes, mainly owing to the smallness of the buildings and excessive cost of alteration.

Meals for Aged Persons. The “ meals on wheels ” service, provided under Section 31 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, was inaugurated in September, 1950. The Women's Voluntary Services, on behalf of the Local Authority, deliver the meals on two days a week—Tuesdays and Thursdays. Different areas are served on the two days, thus enabling more old people to participate. The recipients paid ninepence per meal and the Local Authority subsidised to the extent of one shilling per meal until 31st March, 1956, and 1s. 2d. thereafter.

During 1956 the number of meals served on 94 days was 3,055 (weekly average, 65). The cost to the Local Authority was £171 0s. 6d.

Persons in Need of Care and Attention. In order to avoid delay which would be likely to occur in dealing with urgent cases under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, the powers and duties of the Council in this respect have been delegated to the Welfare Services Sub-Committee of the Health Committee. (Council minute 6-12-48).

Further, the Medical Officer of Health has been authorised to make application to a court of summary jurisdiction or to a single justice of the peace and to take all necessary steps in accordance with the expedited procedure under Section 1 of the National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951. (Council minute 7-4-52).

No new cases were dealt with in 1956.

Burial of the Dead. During 1956, it was necessary for the Local Authority to arrange five burials in accordance with Section 50 of the National Assistance Act, 1948. Only two of these were a total charge on the Local Authority.

Temporary Protection of Property. A store at "The Priory" has been provided to meet the obligations of the Local Authority under Section 48 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, to take reasonable steps to prevent or mitigate loss or damage to movable property of persons admitted to hospital, etc.

These premises are also utilised for the storage of bedsteads, bedding, etc., in connection with temporary accommodation reserved at certain buildings in the County Borough to meet exceptional circumstances, such as flooding, or to provide shelter for other persons in urgent need in circumstances which cannot reasonably be foreseen, in accordance with Section 21 (1) (b) of the National Assistance Act, 1948.

Admissions to Mother and Baby Homes. The Welfare Officer investigated four applications for admission to mother and baby homes under Section 21, National Assistance Act, 1948, and Section 22, National Health Service Act, 1946. All four girls were approved for admission, the Council undertaking to contribute some part of the cost of maintenance for a period not exceeding twelve weeks, *i.e.*, approximately four weeks before confinement, two weeks lying-in period, and six weeks afterwards. In one case, however, a suitable vacancy was not available and another case was eventually withdrawn.

XI.—STATISTICAL TABLES

TABLE 1. ENGLAND AND WALES AND NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1947—1956.
LIVE BIRTH-RATES IN EACH YEAR OF THE DECENNIUM.

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
England and Wales ...	20·5	17·9	16·7	15·8	15·5	15·3	15·5	15·2	15·0	15·7
Northampton	21·9	17·5	15·8	14·2	14·6	14·1	14·5	13·4	13·2	13·8

TABLE 2. ENGLAND AND WALES AND NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1947—1956.
ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS EXPRESSED AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL LIVE
BIRTHS.

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
England and Wales ..	5·3	5·4	5·1	5·1	4·8	4·6	4·6	4·6	4·5	4·6
Northampton	5·3	6·0	5·4	5·7	5·8	5·5	5·6	6·4	6·3	6·1

TABLE 3. ENGLAND AND WALES AND NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1947—1956.
DEATH-RATES IN EACH YEAR OF THE DECENNIUM.

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
England and Wales ...	12·0	10·8	11·7	11·6	12·5	11·3	11·4	11·3	11·7	11·7
Northampton	12·3	11·5	12·1	12·0	13·6	11·8	12·9	11·9	12·0	12·7

TABLE 4. NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1956. METEOROLOGICAL DATA.

MONTH	RAINFALL			TEMPERATURE						DIRECTION OF WIND				
	Total Inches	Greatest in 24 hours		Days on which 0.01 in. or more fell	Mean	Maximum		Minimum		No. of Nights at or below 32 deg. F.	SW. Quadrant including W. days	SE. Quadrant including S. days	NE. Quadrant including E. days	NW. Quadrant including N. days
		Depth	Date			Deg.	Date	Deg.	Date					
January	3.85	0.68	30	21	34.8	51.0	26	15.0	31	18	10	4	3	14
February	1.31	0.15	22	24	31.3	53.0	29	16.0	1	24	2	1	14	12
March	0.96	0.23	26	15	43.7	61.5	2	27.0	11	9	2	17	7	5
April	1.29	0.70	13	14	45.1	61.0	9	32.0	28	1	4	7	12	7
May	0.36	0.13	29	8	55.4	75.0	23	34.0	18	—	10	4	4	13
June	3.34	1.25	11	18	55.8	71.5	25	41.0	14	—	7	3	—	20
July	4.88	1.42	27	18	61.7	80.0	25	49.0	29	—	11	4	8	8
August	4.43	0.65	5	25	57.0	69.0	17	44.0	30	—	14	3	5	9
September	1.98	0.33	5	12	57.5	74.0	13	42.5	26	—	10	9	6	5
October	1.43	0.56	1	17	48.2	60.0	16	32.0	25	1	12	4	4	11
November	0.72	0.17	13	12	42.5	54.5	9	22.0	22	5	4	4	5	17
December	3.42	0.65	31	21	41.8	54.5	15	27.0	21	10	16	7	1	7
Year 1956	27.97	1.42	July 27	205	47.9	80.0	July 25	15.0	Jan. 31	68	102	67	69	128

TABLE 5. NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1956.
SUMMARY OF ROUTINE WORK OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS.

NATURE OF VISIT, INSPECTION, ETC.	Number of Visits, etc.
<i>General Sanitation</i>	
Water supply	98
Drainage.....	420
Stables and piggeries	3
Offensive trades	20
Common lodging houses	4
Houses let in lodgings	0
Tents, vans, sheds, etc.	1
Factories	219
Workplaces	9
Outworkers	1
Bakehouses	8
Public conveniences	0
Cinemas, theatres, etc.	0
Accumulations of refuse, etc.	3
Rodent control	1466
Smoke abatement	84
Schools	0
Shops	9
Swimming baths	8
Canal boats	0
Miscellaneous sanitary visits	376
<i>Housing</i>	
Under Public Health Acts :—	
Houses inspected	393
Visits and revisits	2107
Under Housing Acts :—	
Houses inspected	248
Visits and revisits	721
Overcrowding :—	
Houses inspected	39
Visits and revisits	99
New cases of overcrowding discovered	11
Miscellaneous housing visits	263
<i>Disinfestation</i>	
Verminous houses treated	93
Visits and revisits to above houses	125
Anti-fly treatment of shops and other premises	2
Visits and revisits to above premises	2
<i>Notifiable Diseases</i>	
Inquiries into cases	246
Visits <i>re</i> disinfection	25
Miscellaneous visits	85

Continued on next page.

TABLE 5—continued.

NATURE OF VISIT, INSPECTION, ETC.	Number of Visits, etc.
<i>Meat and Food Inspection</i>	
Inspection of meat :—	
Visits to slaughterhouses	3139
Visits to shops and stalls	2
Visits to other premises	49
Visits to :—	
Butchers	269
Fishmongers and poulterers	42
Fried fish shops	2
Grocers	62
Greengrocers and fruiterers	23
Dairies and milk distributors	45
Ice cream premises	29
Food preparing premises	28
Licensed premises	0
Market stalls	187
Restaurants	9
Street vendors and hawkers	2
Miscellaneous food visits	103
Seizure certificates issued	0
Surrender notes issued	2956
<i>Samples Taken</i>	
Food and drugs	23
Pasteurised milk for phosphatase test	152
Milk for methylene blue test	152
Sterilised milk for turbidity test	17
Milk for tubercle bacilli	2
Ice Cream	6
Other food for bacteriological examination	249
Fertilisers and feeding stuffs	12
Swimming bath water	8
Water from Town mains	94
Water from wells	0
<i>Notices Served</i>	
Informal notices :—	
Served	253
Complied with	128
Outstanding at end of year	22
Statutory notices :—	
Served	124
Complied with	127
Outstanding at end of year	117
<i>Summary</i>	
Total number of inspections and visits	10746

TABLE 6. NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1956.

HOUSING ACT, 1936, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT, 1953. HOUSES REPRESENTED DURING 1956.
SUBSEQUENT ACTION AND CONDITION AT END OF 1956.

HOUSES	DATE OF		REMARKS
	Representations	Orders	
Ash Street, 31	30-10-56	C. 4-12-56	Vacant
Bailiff Street, 6	3-7-56	C. 4-9-56	Vacant
Bath Street, 22	5-6-56	C. 4-9-56	Occupied
Bath Street, 22A	5-6-56	C. 4-9-56	Occupied
Compton Street, 61	4-9-56	C. 2-10-56	Vacant
Deal Street, 46	4-12-56	—	Occupied
Devonshire Street, 37	3-7-56	C. 30-10-56	Vacant
Fort Street, 53	5-6-56	C. 2-10-56	Occupied
Francis Street, 1/3	3-7-56	C. 4-9-56	Vacant and derelict
Gas Street, 5	5-6-56	C. 4-9-56	Occupied
Grafton Street, 66	3-7-56	C. 4-9-56	Vacant
Grafton Street, 85	4-12-56	—	Occupied
Harborough Road, 42	4-12-56	—	Occupied
High Street, 23	4-9-56	C. 30-10-56	Vacant
High Street, 25	4-9-56	C. 30-10-56	Occupied
Horsemarket, 48	10-4-56	C. 5-6-56	Occupied
Leicester Street, 33	4-12-56	—	Occupied
Leicester Street, 35	30-10-56	C. 4-12-56	Occupied
Leicester Street, 39	4-9-56	C. 30-10-56	Occupied
Mount Gardens, 15	4-9-56	C. 2-10-56	Vacant
Mount Gardens, 19	5-6-56	C. 4-9-56	Vacant
Oak Street, 24	3-7-56	C. 4-12-56	Occupied
St. George's Street, 18	3-7-56	D. 4-9-56	Occupied
St. George's Street, 20	5-6-56	D. 4-9-56	Occupied
St. George's Street, 22	5-6-56	D. 4-9-56	Occupied
St. Liz Street, 1	4-9-56	C. 2-10-56	Occupied
St. Peter's Street, 6	4-9-56	C. 30-10-56	Vacant
Silver Street, 7	10-4-56	C. 5-6-56	Vacant
Silver Street, 23	5-6-56	C. 4-9-56	Used as garage
Silver Street, 25	5-6-56	C. 4-9-56	Occupied
Upper Harding St., 45	2-10-56	C. 30-10-56	Vacant
West Street, 19	4-9-56	C. 30-10-56	Occupied

C.=Closing Order;

D.=Demolition Order.

TABLE 7. NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1948—1956.

HOUSING ACT, 1936, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT, 1953. HOUSES REPRESENTED PRIOR TO 1956.
SUBSEQUENT ACTION AND CONDITION AT END OF 1956.

HOUSES	DATE OF		REMARKS
	Representations	Orders	
Albert Street, 5	30-6-55	C. 4-10-55	Used as office
Augustine Street, 21	9-9-53	D. 4-11-53	Demolished
Chalk Lane, 5	3-2-54	D. 3-3-54	Demolished
Chalk Lane, 6	3-2-54	D. 3-3-54	Demolished
Chalk Lane, 7	3-2-54	D. 3-3-54	Demolished
Chalk Lane, 8	3-2-54	D. 3-3-54	Demolished
Chalk Lane, 9	3-2-54	D. 3-3-54	Demolished
Chalk Lane, 10	3-2-54	D. 3-3-54	Demolished
Chalk Lane, 11	3-2-54	D. 3-3-54	Demolished
Chalk Lane, 12	3-2-54	D. 3-3-54	Demolished
Chalk Lane, 13	3-2-54	D. 3-3-54	Demolished
Chalk Place, 1	3-2-54	D. 3-3-54	Demolished
Chalk Place, 2	3-2-54	D. 3-3-54	Demolished
Chalk Place, 3	3-2-54	D. 3-3-54	Demolished
Chalk Place, 4	3-2-54	D. 3-3-54	Demolished
Chalk Place, 5	3-2-54	D. 3-3-54	Demolished
Chalk Place, 6	3-2-54	D. 3-3-54	Demolished
Chalk Place, 7	3-2-54	D. 3-3-54	Demolished
Chalk Place, 8	3-2-54	D. 3-3-54	Demolished
Chalk Place, 9	3-2-54	D. 3-3-54	Demolished
Chapel Place, 25A	4-10-55	C. 1-11-55	Vacant
Compton Street, 57	4-7-51	D. 4-2-52	Demolished
Crispin Street, 19	9-12-53	D. 3-3-54	Demolished
Crispin Street, 19A	9-12-53	D. 3-3-54	Demolished
Devonshire Street, 14	1-11-55	C. 3-1-56	Vacant
Francis Street, 7	8-2-55	C. 5-4-55	Vacant and derelict
Francis Street, 9	8-2-55	C. 5-4-55	Vacant and derelict
Grafton Place, 5	7-6-55	D. 30-6-55	Vacant and derelict
Grafton Place, 7	7-6-55	D. 30-6-55	Vacant and derelict
Grafton Place, 9	7-6-55	D. 30-6-55	Vacant and derelict
Grafton Place, 11	7-6-55	D. 30-6-55	Vacant and derelict
Grafton Place, 13	7-6-55	D. 30-6-55	Vacant and derelict
Grafton Street, 59	4-10-55	C. 1-11-55	Vacant

C.=Closing Order;

D.=Demolition Order.

Continued on next page.

TABLE 7—*continued.*

HOUSES	DATE OF		REMARKS
	Representations	Orders	
Harborough Road, 44	30-6-55	D. 4-10-55	Vacant
Harborough Road, 46	30-6-55	D. 4-10-55	Vacant
Harborough Road, 64	1-11-55	C. 6-12-55	Used as store
Harborough Road, 193	6-9-55	C. 6-12-55	Vacant
Harborough Road, 195	6-9-55	C. 6-12-55	Vacant
Harborough Road, 197	6-9-55	C. 6-12-55	Vacant
Herbert Street, 16	1-11-55	C. 3-1-56	Vacant
Herbert Street, 39	7-6-55	D. 30-6-55	Demolished
Horsemarket, 54	30-6-55	C. 6-3-56	Vacant
Kettering Road, 20	4-10-55	C. 1-11-55	Used as shop
Kingswell Street, 46	7-6-55	D. 30-6-55	Demolished
Kingswell Street, 48	7-6-55	D. 30-6-55	Demolished
Kingswell Street, 50	7-6-55	D. 30-6-55	Demolished
Main Road, (Far Cotton), 17	8-7-53	D. 9-9-53	Vacant and derelict
Monks Pond Street, 18	5-5-54	D. 29-6-54	Vacant
Monks Pond Street, 20	5-5-54	C. 29-6-54	Vacant
Mount Gardens, 20	1-11-55	C. 6-12-55	Vacant
Priory Terrace, 2	5-4-55	D. 7-6-55	Demolished
Priory Terrace, 3	5-4-55	D. 7-6-55	Demolished
Priory Terrace, 4	5-4-55	D. 7-6-55	Demolished
Priory Terrace, 5	5-4-55	D. 7-6-55	Demolished
Priory Terrace, 6	5-4-55	D. 7-6-55	Demolished
Priory Terrace, 7	5-4-55	D. 7-6-55	Demolished
Priory Terrace, 8	5-4-55	D. 7-6-55	Demolished
Priory Terrace, 9	5-4-55	D. 7-6-55	Demolished
Priory Terrace, 10	5-4-55	D. 7-6-55	Demolished
Regent Street, 24	1-6-54	D. 29-6-54	Vacant and derelict
Regent Street, 41	7-4-54	D. 5-5-54	Vacant and derelict
Regent Street, 43	7-4-54	D. 5-5-54	Vacant and derelict
Regent Street, 44	1-6-54	D. 29-6-54	Demolished
Regent Street, 46	1-6-54	D. 29-6-54	Demolished
Regent Street, 48	1-6-54	—	Demolished
Regent Street, 50	1-6-54	—	Demolished
Riding, 46	7-6-55	D. 30-6-55	Demolished
Riding, 47	7-6-55	D. 30-6-55	Demolished
Riding, 48	7-6-55	D. 30-6-55	Demolished

C.=Closing Order;

D=Demolition Order.

Continued on next page.

TABLE 7—continued.

HOUSES	DATE OF		REMARKS
	Representations	Orders	
St. George's Street, 51	1-11-55	C. 6-12-55	Occupied
St. George's Street, 62	3-3-54	C. 7-4-54	Vacant
St. George's Street, 63	3-3-54	C. 7-4-54	Occupied
St. James' Square (St. James), 5	28-1-53	D. 1-4-53	Vacant
St. James' Square (St. James), 6	28-1-53	D. 1-4-53	Vacant
St. John's Place, 18	4-10-55	C. 1-11-55	Vacant
Scarletwell Street, 13	7-6-55	C. 4-10-55	Used as store
Scarletwell Street, 17	1-4-53	D. 6-5-53	Demolished
Scarletwell Street, 19	1-4-53	D. 6-5-53	Demolished
Scarletwell Street, 20	2-6-48	D. 26-7-48	Vacant and derelict
Scarletwell Street, 21	1-4-53	D. 6-5-53	Demolished
Scarletwell Street, 22	7-10-53	D. 9-12-53	Vacant and derelict
Scarletwell Street, 24	3-3-48	D. 3-5-48	Vacant and derelict
Scarletwell Street, 36	7-10-53	D. 9-12-53	Vacant and derelict
Scarletwell Street, 38	7-10-53	D. 9-12-53	Demolished
Scarletwell Street, 40	2-6-48	D. 26-7-48	Demolished
Swan Street, 66	2-11-49	D. 30-1-50	Vacant and derelict
Swan Street, 68	2-11-49	D. 30-1-50	Vacant and derelict
Swan Street, 70	7-10-53	D. 3-7-56	Vacant and derelict
Upper Cross Street, 2	1-4-53	D. 3-6-53	Partly demolished
Upper Cross Street, 4	1-4-53	D. 3-6-53	Partly demolished
Upper Cross Street, 6	1-4-53	D. 3-6-53	Partly demolished
Upper Cross Street, 8	1-4-53	D. 3-6-53	Demolished
Upper Harding Street, 49	1-11-55	C. 6-12-55	Vacant
Vicarage Lane, 28	30-6-55	C. 4-10-55	Vacant

C.=Closing Order;

D.=Demolition Order.

TABLE 8. NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1956.

CORPORATION OWNED HOUSES IN RESPECT OF WHICH CERTIFICATES
OF UNFITNESS WERE SUBMITTED DURING 1956.

CONDITION AT END OF 1956.

Houses	DATE REPORTED TO COMMITTEE	REMARKS
Augustine Street, 3	30-10-56	Vacant
Augustine Street, 34	30-10-56	Vacant
Augustine Street, 36	30-10-56	Occupied
Compton Street, 63	4-12-56	Occupied
Windsor Terrace, 5	30-10-56	Occupied

TABLE 9. NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1956.
ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

1.—*Inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors for purposes of provisions as to health.*

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are enforced by the Local Authority ...	72	7	—	—
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	604	202	—	—
Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises, but including electrical stations, institutions, and sites of building operations and works of engineering construction)	39	10	—	—
TOTALS	715	219	—	—

2.—*Cases in which defects were found.*

Particulars	Number of defects				Cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	3	—	3	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	2	—	2	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	28	37	—	21	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	1	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	1	—	1	—
TOTALS	28	43	—	28	—

Continued on next page.

TABLE 9—*continued.*3.—*Outwork (Sections 110 and 111).*

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list	Cases of default in sending lists	Prosecutions for failure to supply lists	Instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Making, etc., of wearing apparel	140	—	—	—	—	—
Box making	2	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	142	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE 10. NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1956.

UN SOUND FOOD VOLUNTARILY SURRENDERED.

NATURE OF FOOD	WEIGHT			
	TONS	CWT.	QR.	LB.
Beef, home killed	17	6	1	27
Beef, imported	1	2	2	6
Mutton, home killed	1	1	0	25
Mutton, imported	—	2	0	24
Offal, home killed	36	4	1	9
Offal, imported	—	1	0	24
Pork, home killed	3	2	0	15
Pork, imported	—	1	2	3
Veal, home killed	—	4	2	4
Bacon	—	—	2	0
Bread rolls	—	—	1	2
Cheese	—	1	2	9
Cooking fat	—	—	1	22
Fish, wet	—	16	0	26
Fruit, dried	—	—	2	5
Ham	—	—	—	7
Margarine	—	—	—	23
Poultry and game	—	1	2	23
Prepared meat products	—	1	1	22
TOTAL	60	9	0	24

6,731 tins and jars of food were also surrendered.

2,956 surrender notes were issued in connection with the above unsound food.

There were no seizures.

TABLE 11. NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1956.

CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART.

	CATTLE EXCLUD- ING COWS	COWS	CALVES	SHEEP AND LAMBS	PIGS	HORSES	TOTALS
Number killed	12,893	2,315	3,250	55,394	17,357	—	91,209
Number inspected ...	12,893	2,315	3,250	55,394	17,357	—	91,209
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :—</i>							
Whole carcasses condemned	22	11	9	34	27	—	103
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	4,064	712	—	195	847	—	5,818
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	31·7	31·2	0·3	0·4	5·0	—	6·5
<i>Tuberculosis only :—</i>							
Whole carcasses condemned	15	14	—	—	4	—	33
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	637	342	—	—	313	—	1,292
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	5·1	15·4	—	—	1·8	—	1·5
<i>Cysticercosis :—</i>							
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	31	1	—	—	—	—	32
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE 12. NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1956.
FOOD AND DRUGS. SAMPLES TAKEN FOR ANALYSIS.

NATURE OF SAMPLE	FORMAL SAMPLES		INFORMAL SAMPLES	
	TOTAL NUMBER	NO. NOT GENUINE	TOTAL NUMBER	NO. NOT GENUINE
Fish cakes.....	—	—	1	—
Ice cream	—	—	1	—
Jam	—	—	2	—
Lemons	—	—	1	—
Margarine with 10 per cent. butter	—	—	2	—
Pepper	—	—	1	—
Potato crisps	—	—	1	—
Prepared meat products	—	—	4	1*
Sausages	—	—	4	—
Soft drinks	—	—	2	—
Sweetmeats	—	—	3	—
Vinegar	—	—	1	—
Totals	—	—	23	1*

* The action taken regarding this defaulting sample is recorded on page 37.

TABLE 13. NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1947—1956.
TUBERCULOSIS NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS.

YEARS	NOTIFICATIONS			DEATHS		
	RESPIR- ATORY	NON-RES- PIRATORY	TOTALS	RESPIR- ATORY	NON-RES- PIRATORY	TOTALS
1947	100	20	120	42	11	53
1948	98	7	105	42	1	43
1949	99	17	116	36	2	38
1950	76	18	94	28	10	38
1951	92	18	110	31	5	36
1952	103	16	119	26	4	30
1953	69	14	83	21	4	25
1954	61	12	73	21	3	24
1955	83	13	96	12	1	13
1956	65	12	77	20	2	22

TABLE 14. NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1956.
TUBERCULOSIS. CLASSIFICATION OF NEW CASES.

CLASSIFICATION	NOTIFIED CASES			DEATHS OF CASES NOT NOTIFIED		
	M.	F.	TOTAL	M.	F.	TOTAL
RESPIRATORY TUBERCULOSIS	42	23	65*	2	2	4*
OTHER FORMS :—						
Meninges and Brain	—	1	1	—	—	—
Peritoneum and Intestines	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bones and Joints	2	2	4	—	—	—
Glands	1	2	3	—	—	—
Other Organs	2	2	4	—	1	1
Totals	47	30	77	2	3	5

* A total of 69 new cases of respiratory tuberculosis.

TABLE 15. NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1956.
RESPIRATORY TUBERCULOSIS. OCCUPATIONAL INCIDENCE.

OCCUPATION	NEW CASES	OCCUPATION	NEW CASES
Shoe Operatives :—		Ex-R.A.F.	1
(a) Clicker	2	Housewife	18
(b) Laster	—	Insurance Agent	1
(c) Finisher	—	Kitchenmaid	1
(d) Roughstuff and Pressman ...	—	Labourer	8
(e) Warehouse and General ...	3	Leather Dresser	1
(f) Female Worker	1	Manager	1
	6	Omnibus Driver	1
Apprentice Compositor	1	Printer's Baler	1
Butcher	1	Salesman	1
Buyer	1	School Child	8
Caretaker	1	Transport Checker	1
Child (under 5 years)	3	Warehouseman	1
Commercial Traveller	1	No Occupation	6
Cook	1	Not Ascertained	1
Dress Machinist	1		
Engineer	2	Total	69

TABLE 16. ENGLAND AND WALES AND NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1947—1956.
TOTAL TUBERCULOSIS DEATH-RATES IN EACH YEAR OF THE DECENNium.

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
England and Wales ...	0.55	0.51	0.45	0.36	0.31	0.24	0.20	0.18	0.15	0.12
Northampton	0.51	0.41	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.29	0.24	0.23	0.13	0.22

TABLE 17. NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1956.
TUBERCULOSIS. AGE GROUPS FOR NEW CASES AND DEATHS.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	RESPIRATORY		NON-RESPIRATORY		RESPIRATORY		NON-RESPIRATORY	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 years	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10 years	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15 years	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20 years	2	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
20—25 years	2	4	1	2	—	—	—	—
25—35 years	8	5	2	3	1	1	—	—
35—45 years	4	3	1	—	10	2	—	1
45—55 years	4	3	—	2	2	4	1	—
55—65 years	11	1	1	—				
65 and upwards	6	4	—	—				
Totals	44	25	5	8	13	7	1	1

TABLE 18. ENGLAND AND WALES AND NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1947—1956.
INFANT MORTALITY IN EACH YEAR OF THE DECENNium.

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
England and Wales ...	41.4	33.9	32.4	29.8	29.6	27.6	26.8	25.5	24.9	23.8
Northampton	33.3	37.3	29.8	18.6	29.7	21.8	23.2	20.2	17.7	24.1

TABLE 19. NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1952—1956.
INFANT MORTALITY. CAUSES OF DEATH.

CAUSES OF DEATH	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Bronchitis	1	—	1	1	—
Congenital Malformations	4	6	5	4	6
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—
Gastritis, Enteritis, and Diarrhoea	1	—	—	1	1
Homicide	—	—	—	—	1
Measles	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	5	1	5	5	6
Tuberculosis Diseases	—	1	—	—	—
Violence	—	1*	—	—	3*
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	1	—
All Other Causes, including Premature Birth	21	26	17	12	17
TOTAL DEATHS	32	35	28	24	34
TOTAL LIVE BIRTHS	1467	1506	1386	1353	1409
INFANT MORTALITY	21·8	23·2	20·2	17·7	24·1

* These violent deaths were not caused by motor vehicle accidents.

TABLE 20. NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1956.
LIVE BIRTHS AND STILLBIRTHS REGISTERED AND NOTIFIED.

	MALES	FEMALES	TOTALS
Live Births Registered	745	664	1409
Stillbirths Registered	12	20	32
*Total Births Registered	757	684	1441
Live Births Notified	1389	1237	2626
Stillbirths Notified	40	33	73
†Total Births Notified	1429	1270	2699

* 1,100 (76·3 per cent.) of the total *registered* births occurred in institutions.

† 2,361 (87·5 per cent.) of the total *notified* births occurred in institutions.

TABLE 21. NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1956.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS. SOURCES OF NOTIFICATION.

	NUMBER	PER CENT.
Medical Practitioners	—	—
Certified Midwives	2699	100·0
Parents and Others	—	—
Totals	2699	100·0

TABLE 22. NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1952—1956.

DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY. CASES ATTENDED BY MIDWIVES.

Year	CASES ATTENDED						Total Cases Attended
	by Queen's Nurses			by Midwives in Private Practice (including Midwives employed in Nursing Homes)			
	as Mid-wives	as Matern-ity Nurses	Totals	as Mid-wives	as Matern-ity Nurses	Totals	
1952	—	375	375	4	1	5	380
1953	—	361	361	—	1	1	362
1954	—	261	261	1	1	2	263
1955	—	251	251	—	—	—	251
1956	1	335	336	—	2	2	338*

* This high figure is due to restriction of admissions to St. Edmund's Maternity Unit, owing to alterations.

TABLE 23. NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1956.
CHILD WELFARE CENTRES. STATISTICS.

CENTRE	DAY OF MEETING	AVERAGE ATTENDANCE PER WEEK					Average Number seen by Doctor per Session
		Mothers	Children under 1 year	Children 1—2 years	Children 2—5 years	Total Children under 5 years	
Abington Avenue ...	Thursday ...	69	50	15	18	83	19
Broadmead	Monday	57	36	16	16	68	21
Dallington	Thursday ...	63	41	11	15	67	16
Doddridge Memorial	Wednesday	69	48	18	18	84	20
Far Cotton	Monday	59	36	13	17	66	19
†Far Cotton	Wednesday	35	27	5	7	39	10
Kingsley Park	Monday	48	33	8	15	56	15
Kingsthorpe	Tuesday ...	76	60	15	11	86	21
St. David's	Friday	24	19	4	8	31	10
*St. Edmund's	Friday	30	23	4	7	34	12
*St. Giles' Street	Wednesday	47	27	10	15	52	13
St. Sepulchre's	Wednesday	54	39	12	7	58	15
*St. Sepulchre's	‡Monday	41	27	8	7	42	12
*Victoria	Tuesday ...	44	21	12	17	50	17
Wheatfield Road	Friday	42	30	11	11	52	16
	Totals	758	517	162	189	868	236

† Ceased; amalgamated with Far Cotton Monday Centre on 5-11-56.

* Held at St. Giles' Street Infant Welfare Centre, erected by Corporation in 1936 ; remainder held on hired premises.

‡ Previous to 5-11-56, this Centre was held at St. Sepulchre's Church Buildings on Fridays.

TABLE 24. ENGLAND AND WALES AND NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1947—1956.
MATERNAL MORTALITY* IN EACH YEAR OF THE DECENNIUM.

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
England and Wales ...	1·17	1·02	0·98	0·86	0·79	0·72	0·76	0·69	0·64	0·56
Northampton	0·86	0·54	—	0·65	1·29	—	0·65	1·41	—	1·39

* Calculated per 1,000 total (live and still) births registered and including deaths from abortion.

TABLE 25. NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1956.

SUMMARY OF DENTAL WORK.

	EXPECTANT AND NURSING MOTHERS	CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS	TOTALS
<i>Number of Patients provided with Dental Care :—</i>			
Examined	35	293	328
Needing treatment	35	251	286
Treated	28	230	258
Made dentally fit	18	230	248
Attendances	115	735	850
<i>Numbers of Dental Treatments provided :—</i>			
Scalings and gum treatment ...	10	—	10
Fillings	8	25	33
Silver nitrate treatment	2	806	808
Dressings	61	34	95
Crowns or inlays	—	—	—
Extractions	102	390	492
Anæsthetics :—			
Local	18	26	44
General	14	201	215
Dentures provided :—			
Full upper or lower	11	—	11
Partial upper or lower	11	—	11
Dentures repaired	3	—	3
Radiographs	2	—	2

TABLE 26. NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1956.

FOLLOW-UP OF REGISTERED BLIND AND PARTIALLY SIGHTED PERSONS.

Number of new cases registered during the year in respect of which Section F of Form B.D.8 recommends :— (a) No treatment (b) Treatment (medical, surgical, or optical)	CAUSE OF DISABILITY			
	CATARACT	GLAUCOMA	RETROLENTAL FIBROPLASIA	OTHERS
(a) No treatment	3	—	—	19
(b) Treatment	13	3	—	4
Number of cases at (b) above which on follow-up action have received treatment	5	3	—	3

TABLE 27. NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1949—1956.

INCIDENCE OF BLINDNESS.

DATES	NUMBER OF NAMES ON REGISTERS	
	BLIND	PARTIALLY SIGHTED
31-3-49	198	—
31-3-50	203	—
31-3-51	224	—
31-3-52	222	7
31-12-52	232	14
31-12-53	239	13
31-12-54	248	26
31-12-55	254	29
31-12-56	262	36

TABLE A
COUNTY BOROUGH OF NORTHAMPTON
Vital Statistics during 1956 and Previous Years.

Year	Total Population estimated to Middle of each Year	Live Births			Total Deaths registered in the District		Transferable Deaths		Net Deaths belonging to the District			
		Uncorrected Number	Nett		Number	Rate	Non-residents registered in the District	Residents not registered in the District	Under One Year		At all Ages	
			Number	Rate					Number	Rate per 1,000 live Births	Number	Rate
1901	87096	2345	2345	26·9	1269	14·6	62	9	334	142·4	1216	14·0
1911	90152	1930	1931	21·4	1240	13·8	86	46	250	129·5	1200	13·3
1921	92300	1924	1881	20·4	1022	11·1	123	65	124	65·9	964	10·4
1931	92970	1307	1233	13·3	1243	13·4	205	53	87	70·6	1091	11·8
1936	96300	1419	1204	12·5	1448	15·0	298	59	48	39·9	1209	12·6
1937	96360	1518	1197	12·4	1465	15·2	302	54	57	47·6	1217	12·6
1938	96540	1556	1203	12·5	1294	13·4	283	60	56	46·6	1071	11·1
1939	96440	1704	1190	12·3	1458	14·7	368	65	52	41·7	1155	11·6
1940	103700	1847	1229	11·9	1812	17·5	418	52	69	49·0	1446	13·9
1941	108930	2101	1282	11·8	1776	16·3	450	69	91	52·9	1395	12·8
1942	101800	2133	1597	15·7	1468	14·4	362	61	68	42·6	1167	11·5
1943	98150	2244	1761	17·9	1616	16·5	390	64	69	39·2	1290	13·1
1944	100040	2627	2074	20·7	1583	15·8	416	53	96	46·3	1220	12·2
1945	98520	2412	1788	18·1	1586	16·1	382	69	72	40·3	1273	12·9
1946	102760	2847	2111	20·5	1571	15·3	399	59	97	45·9	1231	12·0
1947	104480	3000	2283	21·9	1606	15·4	363	43	76	33·3	1286	12·3
1948	104380	2518	1825	17·5	1543	14·8	401	54	68	37·3	1196	11·5
1949	104300	2377	1646	15·8	1581	15·2	414	92	49	29·8	1259	12·1
1950	105490	2497	1502	14·2	1547	14·7	397	113	28	18·6	1263	12·0
1951	103700	2510	1514	14·6	1668	16·1	391	137	45	29·7	1414	13·6
1952	103700	2583	1467	14·1	1489	14·4	358	91	32	21·8	1222	11·8
1953	104000	2592	1506	14·5	1650	15·9	346	36	35	23·2	1340	12·9
1954	103700	2536	1386	13·4	1566	15·1	376	48	28	20·2	1238	11·9
1955	102800	2472	1353	13·2	1570	15·3	390	56	24	17·7	1236	12·0
1956	101800	2612	1409	13·8	1640	16·1	411	60	34	24·1	1289	12·7

This Table is arranged to shew the gross births and deaths in Northampton County Borough and the births and deaths properly belonging to the town, with the corresponding rates.

In 1931 and 1939 the death-rates are based on the estimated civil populations supplied by the Registrar-General for that purpose. The population for death-rate calculation in 1939 was 99,290.

Non-civilian deaths are excluded during the years 1939 to 1949.

NOTE: Table B (Cases of Notifiable Diseases) and Table C (Causes of Death) are inserted after page 106.

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BOROUGH
EDUCATION COMMITTEE



ANNUAL REPORT

UPON THE

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

FOR THE YEAR 1956

BY

CARRICK G. PAYTON, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health
Principal School Medical Officer
Chief Tuberculosis Officer
Welfare Administrator

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**NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BOROUGH
EDUCATION COMMITTEE**
(as constituted on 31st December, 1956)

Chairman

ALDERMAN F. TOLLIT

Deputy-Chairman

ALDERMAN ARTHUR L. CHOWN

Aldermen

CYRIL A. CHOWN
A. W. LYNE, O.B.E., J.P.
W. A. PICKERING
LEN SMITH

Councillors

J. B. CORRIN
T. H. DOCKRELL, M.B., F.R.C.S.I.
R. P. DOLMAN
MRS. K. M. GIBBS
A. GOODRICH
G. J. HACKETT
P. MCSHANE
K. R. PEARSON
F. P. SAUNDERS
B. C. TIPPLESTON

Co-opted Members

DR. E. E. FIELD, O.B.E., B.SC., F.R.G.S.
MRS. M. A. HACKETT
MISS P. HENNINGS, M.B.E., B.A.
MR. S. T. KINCH
MRS. H. V. PELL
MR. J. L. PIGGOTT

Primary Education and Special Services Sub-Committee

ALDERMAN PICKERING (*Chairman*); COUNCILLORS CORRIN, DOCKRELL, DOLMAN,
and MRS. GIBBS: DR. FIELD, MRS. HACKETT, MRS. PELL, and MR. PIGGOTT.

Chief Education Officer

H. A. SKERRETT, B.A., A.R.HIST.S.

STAFF OF SCHOOL HEALTH DEPARTMENT, 1956

<i>Principal School Medical Officer</i>	...	CARRICK G. PAYTON, M.D., CH.B., D.P.H.
<i>Deputy Principal School Medical Officer</i>		JAMES G. HAGAN, M.B., B.CH., D.P.H.
<i>School Medical Officers</i>	... ..	MARGARET O'CONNOR, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S. JOHN J. HOLLOWAY, M.B., B.CH., L.M., D.P.H.
<i>Principal School Dental Officer</i>	...	J. P. WILSON, L.D.S.R.C.S.
<i>Assistant Dental Officer</i>	... ..	Vacant
<i>Educational Psychologist*</i>	MISS D. V. SCOTT, M.A.
<i>Psychiatric Social Worker*</i>	...	MISS E. E. BITCHENOR, B.A. (<i>Resigned 30/9/56</i>)
<i>Speech Therapist</i>	... ..	MISS E. WESTLEY MISS E. A. WEBB (<i>Temporary; commenced 10/12/56</i>)
<i>School Nurse†</i>	... ..	MISS G. E. LANTSBERY (1, 2)
<i>Clerks</i>	... ..	MISS M. E. L. PHILLIPS (<i>Senior Clerk</i>) MRS. P. A. ROBERTS (<i>commenced 1/10/56</i>) MISS A. E. SCOTTS (<i>Resigned 8/6/56</i>) MISS P. HOWKINS
<i>Clerks and Chairside Assistants</i>		MRS. J. MARSHMAN MISS D. GRAY

* Under a joint scheme with Northamptonshire Education Authority.

† Health Visitors (*see page 12*) also gave part-time assistance in school health service under a co-ordinated scheme. References to "School Nurses" in this Report include such help.

(1) State Registered Nurse.

(2) State Certified Midwife.

GENERAL INFORMATION, 1956

Home Population at all Ages (estimated at 30th June, 1956) ... 101,800

Estimated Child Population (30th June, 1956) :—

Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	1,430
1—4 years inclusive	...	...	...	...	...	5,470
5—14 years inclusive	...	...	...	...	...	16,000

Total under 15 years	22,900
----------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	--------

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Number on Rolls

Number of Schools	...	...	...	...	27
Number of Departments	...	...	...	...	37
Number on Rolls	...	...	...	...	10,500
Average Attendance	...	9,640	(91·8 per cent.)		

SECONDARY MODERN SCHOOLS

Number of Schools	...	...	...	...	9
Number of Departments	...	...	...	...	10
Number on Rolls	...	...	...	...	3,668
Average Attendance	...	3,359	(91·6 per cent.)		

SECONDARY GRAMMAR AND TECHNICAL SCHOOLS

Grammar School for Boys (Town and County)	...				884
Grammar School for Girls	...	...	...	...	554
Technical High School—Mixed	...	...	...	...	504

SPECIAL SCHOOLS

Wellington Place	...	...	...	...	...	79
Open Air	...	...	...	...	...	102
Manfield Orthopædic Hospital	...	...	...	...	...	44
John Greenwood Shipman Convalescent Home	...	...	...	...	...	19

NURSERY SCHOOLS

Silver Street	...	...	...	...	...	86
Bush Hill	...	...	...	...	...	39
Delapre	...	...	...	...	...	39
Gloucester	...	...	...	...	...	35
Victoria Park	...	...	...	...	...	40
Wallace Road	...	...	...	...	...	40

Total Number of Pupils on Rolls	...					16,633
---------------------------------	-----	--	--	--	--	--------

COST OF SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

					£	s.	d.
Total Nett Cost (Year 1955/56)	...	...	...	...	10,947	10	10

MEDICAL INSPECTION RETURNS

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1956.

TABLE I. (MINISTRY OF EDUCATION)

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF PUPILS ATTENDING MAINTAINED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS (INCLUDING SPECIAL SCHOOLS)

A.—PERIODIC MEDICAL INSPECTIONS

Age Groups inspected and Number of Children examined in each :—

Entrants	1,513
Second Age Group	2,299
Leavers	1,228
Total	5,040
Additional Periodic Inspections	562
Grand Total	5,602

Parents present at the above inspections numbered 4,196 (74.9 per cent.).

B.—OTHER INSPECTIONS

Number of Special Inspections	1,730
Number of Re-inspections	6,577
Total	8,307

C.—PUPILS FOUND TO REQUIRE TREATMENT

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL PUPILS FOUND AT PERIODIC MEDICAL INSPECTION TO REQUIRE TREATMENT (excluding Dental Diseases and Infestation with Vermin)

Age Groups Inspected	For defective vision (excluding squint)	For any of the other conditions recorded in Table III.A	Total individual pupils
Entrants	1	321	322
Second Age Group	110	417	506
Leavers	73	120	189
Totals	184	858	1,017
Additional Periodic Inspections	30	103	127
Grand Totals	214	961	1,144

D.-CLASSIFICATION OF THE PHYSICAL CONDITION OF PUPILS
INSPECTED IN THE AGE GROUPS RECORDED IN TABLE I.A

Age Groups Inspected	Number of Pupils Inspected	Satisfactory		Unsatisfactory	
		Number	Per cent.	Number	Per cent.
Entrants	1,513	1,483	98.0	30	2.0
Second Age Group	2,299	2,245	97.7	54	2.3
Leavers	1,228	1,216	99.0	12	1.0
Additional Periodic Inspections	562	557	99.1	5	0.9
Totals	5,602	5,501	98.2	101	1.8

TABLE II. (MINISTRY OF EDUCATION)

INFESTATION WITH VERMIN

(i) Total number of individual examinations of pupils in schools by the school nurses or other authorised persons	37,165
(ii) Total number of <i>individual</i> pupils found to be infested ...	516
(iii) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued (Section 54 (2), Education Act, 1944)	515
(iv) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing orders were issued (Section 54 (3), Education Act, 1944)	—

TABLE III. (MINISTRY OF EDUCATION)
RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND BY MEDICAL INSPECTION

A.—PERIODIC INSPECTIONS

Defect Code No.	Defect or Disease	Periodic Inspections				Total (including all other age groups inspected)	
		Entrants		Leavers		T.	O.
		T.	O.	T.	O.		
4	Skin	26	41	27	14	127	117
5	Eyes— <i>a.</i> Vision	1	8	73	31	214	135
	<i>b.</i> Squint	20	34	—	1	36	51
	<i>c.</i> Other	10	5	8	17	51	33
6	Ears— <i>a.</i> Hearing	6	19	—	3	11	36
	<i>b.</i> Otitis Media	9	4	1	2	20	11
	<i>c.</i> Other	4	—	3	—	15	5
7	Nose and Throat	68	111	10	4	112	226
8	Speech	11	30	1	2	22	52
9	Lymphatic Glands	3	26	—	—	4	40
10	Heart	23	54	19	28	63	146
11	Lungs	21	63	9	16	58	161
12	Developmental—						
	<i>a.</i> Hernia	5	4	—	—	14	5
	<i>b.</i> Other	7	87	11	11	67	188
13	Orthopædic—						
	<i>a.</i> Posture	21	4	5	2	94	14
	<i>b.</i> Feet	81	18	19	7	216	59
	<i>c.</i> Other	27	22	1	11	57	78
14	Nervous System—						
	<i>a.</i> Epilepsy	4	—	1	—	16	1
	<i>b.</i> Other	1	7	—	3	8	16
15	Psychological—						
	<i>a.</i> Development	—	8	1	2	2	21
	<i>b.</i> Stability	5	23	1	8	18	62
16	Abdomen	2	2	2	—	10	6
17	Other	14	50	8	14	51	129

T. = Requiring Treatment.

O. = Requiring observation.

B.—SPECIAL INSPECTIONS

Defect Code No.	Defect or Disease	Special Inspections	
		Requiring Treatment	Requiring Observation
4	Skin	116	3
5	Eyes— <i>a.</i> Vision	496	145
	<i>b.</i> Squint	52	2
	<i>c.</i> Other	45	2
6	Ears— <i>a.</i> Hearing	7	6
	<i>b.</i> Otitis Media	5	—
	<i>c.</i> Other	11	1
7	Nose and Throat	11	7
8	Speech	27	8
9	Lymphatic Glands	2	1
10	Heart	6	4
11	Lungs	13	7
12	Developmental—		
	<i>a.</i> Hernia	1	1
	<i>b.</i> Other	3	—
13	Orthopædic—		
	<i>a.</i> Posture	5	1
	<i>b.</i> Feet	18	1
	<i>c.</i> Other	5	7
14	Nervous System—		
	<i>a.</i> Epilepsy	—	—
	<i>b.</i> Other	4	5
15	Psychological—		
	<i>a.</i> Development	28	20
	<i>b.</i> Stability	12	23
16	Abdomen	5	2
17	Other	277	36

TABLE IV. (MINISTRY OF EDUCATION)

TREATMENT OF PUPILS ATTENDING MAINTAINED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS (INCLUDING SPECIAL SCHOOLS)

GROUP 1.—EYE DISEASES, DEFECTIVE VISION AND SQUINT

	Number of cases known to have been dealt with	
	By the Authority	Otherwise
External and other, excluding errors of refraction and squint	145	2
Errors of refraction (including squint)	—	855
Totals	145	857
Number of pupils for whom spectacles were prescribed	—	611

GROUP 2.—DISEASES AND DEFECTS OF EAR, NOSE AND THROAT

	Number of cases known to have been treated	
	By the Authority	Otherwise
Received operative treatment—		
(a) for diseases of the ear	—	—
(b) for adenoids and chronic tonsillitis	—	311
(c) for other nose and throat conditions ...	—	5
Received other forms of treatment	35	35
Totals	35	351
Total number of pupils in schools who are known to have been provided with hearing aids—		
(a) in 1956	—	1
(b) in previous years	—	6

GROUP 3.—ORTHOPÆDIC AND POSTURAL DEFECTS

	By the Authority	Otherwise
Number of pupils known to have been treated at clinics or out-patient departments	—	710

GROUP 4.—DISEASES OF THE SKIN (excluding Uncleanliness, for which see Table II.)

	Number of cases treated or under treatment during the year by the Authority
Ringworm— (i) Scalp	—
(ii) Body	7
Scabies	12
Impetigo	5
Other skin diseases	163
Total	187

GROUP 5.—CHILD GUIDANCE TREATMENT

Number of pupils treated at Child Guidance Clinics under arrangements made by the Authority	53
---	----

GROUP 6.—SPEECH THERAPY

Number of pupils treated by Speech Therapists under arrangements made by the Authority	113
--	-----

GROUP 7.—OTHER TREATMENT GIVEN

(a) Number of cases of miscellaneous minor ailments treated by the Authority	968
(b) Pupils who received convalescent treatment under School Health Service arrangements	—
(c) Pupils who received B.C.G. vaccination	694
(d) Pupils who received ultra-violet light treatment	38
(e) Pupils who received extra nutriments	33
Total	1,733

TABLE V.—DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT

(This Table is printed on page 104).

INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

The table below gives a comparison of the cases of notifiable disease amongst the general population and children of school age during 1956 :—

Notifiable Disease	Total Cases notified (All Ages)	Cases amongst Children of School Age
Dysentery	53	25
Food Poisoning	157	23
*Measles	461	243
*Pneumonia	58	2
*Scarlet Fever	115	83
*Whooping Cough	30	14
Tuberculosis—		
Respiratory	65	7
Other Forms	12	1

* Most cases of these diseases were not investigated.

CAUSES OF DEATH

The following table shews the principal causes of death amongst children of school age (five to fifteen years) for the fifteen-year period ended December, 1956 :—

Cause	1942-1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	Total Deaths	Per-cent- age of Total
Violence	18	5	1	1	3	1	29	22·7
Tuberculosis	20	—	1	1	1	—	23†	18·0
Pneumonia, Bronchitis, and Other Diseases of Respiratory System ...	4	1	2	2	—	—	9	7·0
Nephritis	4	—	—	1	—	—	5	3·9
Heart Disease	3	—	—	—	—	—	3	2·3
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	—	—	—	1	—	2	1·6
Other Conditions	46	3	2	1	2	3	57‡	44·5
Totals	96	9	6	6	7	4	128*	100·0

† 4 respiratory tuberculosis, 19 non-respiratory tuberculosis.

‡ No deaths from diphtheria, measles and whooping cough in last fifteen years.

* 0·7 per cent. of the 18,924 deaths at all ages during the fifteen years.

SCHOOL CLINIC ATTENDANCES

Schools	Children	Attendances		
		Treatment	Inspection	Totals
Maintained Primary and Secondary	3,243	6,487	1,804	8,291
Special	75	151	91	242
Nursery	258	142	249	391
Non-maintained	29	42	9	51
Pre-school	37	200	1	201
Totals	3,642	7,022	2,154	9,176

FOLLOWING-UP

Visits paid to primary, secondary, and special schools by doctors and nurses to follow up children found defective at medical inspection 167

Visits to homes :—

By doctors 13

By nurses 1,115

Re-examinations made by doctors 5,462

In addition, the school nurses during 131 visits to schools made 1,355 other examinations for :—

- (a) weighing and measuring infants prior to medical inspection;
- (b) examination of camp boys prior to their going to School Camp;
- (c) examination of new entrants prior to admission to school;
- (d) following-up children for medical officers after re-examination.

EAR NOSE AND THROAT CLINIC

317 children (308 primary and secondary, 3 special, 5 nursery, and 1 non-maintained) were operated upon for tonsils and adenoids during 1956. The figure for 1955 was also 317.

See Table IV., Group 2, on page 93.

A children's ear nose and throat clinic is held at Northampton General Hospital, to which 4 children were referred direct by the School Medical Officers at the request of the general medical practitioners concerned. Children are also referred to the clinic by their own doctors.

At the request of the Principal Medical Officer of the Ministry of Education, the School Medical Officers at the periodic medical inspections recorded the children who had undergone tonsillectomy any time previously and the following tabulation shews the findings :—

Groups Inspected	Number of Children Inspected			Number of Children who have had Tonsillectomy			Percentage of Children who have had Tonsillectomy		
	Boys	Girls	Totals	Boys	Girls	Totals	Boys	Girls	Totals
Entrants	777	736	1,513	75	47	122	9.7	6.4	8.1
Second Age Group	1,192	1,107	2,299	324	256	580	27.2	23.1	25.2
Leavers	694	534	1,228	229	135	364	33.0	25.3	29.6
*Other Periodic Inspections ...	310	252	562	89	69	158	28.7	27.4	28.1

* Special Schools (Open Air and Wellington Place)—all children examined every two years. Grammar Schools for Boys and Girls and Technical High School (11 years plus). Fifteen year olds who are not leavers.

EYE CLINIC

The Ophthalmic Surgeon attended the School Clinic once or twice a week as required, by arrangement with the Regional Hospital Board, when the following children were examined :—

Maintained primary and secondary schools	700
Maintained special schools	15
Nursery schools	3
Non-maintained schools	17
Pre-school	34
Total	<hr/> 769 <hr/>

See Table IV., Group 1, on page 93.

An orthoptic clinic is held at Northampton General Hospital, to which cases are referred, when necessary, by the Ophthalmic Surgeon.

Reports on 35 children were received from the orthoptic clinic during 1956.

CONJUNCTIVITIS

25 cases were noted during 1956 and in no month were there more than 7 cases.

This subject has been fully dealt with in the Annual Reports for 1948 onwards and is kept under constant review (weekly).

CHILD GUIDANCE CLINIC

This service is shared with Northamptonshire County Council in the proportion of two thirds to that Authority and one third to Northampton County Borough Council.

A total of 59 cases was referred to the Psychiatrist via many channels. The School Health Service referred 12 of the total.

See Table IV., Group 5, page 94.

SPEECH CLINIC

This Clinic is held at 28 Billing Road, Northampton.

113 children received speech therapy.

See Table IV., Group 6, page 94.

SUNLIGHT CLINIC

(Operative during winter months at the School Clinic).

38 school children made 799 attendances in 1956 for ultra-violet light treatment.

6 pre-school children also attended, making 128 attendances.

(Some children attend for more than one course).

ORTHOPÆDIC TREATMENT

40 Northampton children were under treatment at Manfield Orthopædic Hospital, or the John Greenwood Shipman Convalescent Home, during 1956.

640 children were treated as out-patients at the Orthopædic Clinic, Hazelwood Road, Northampton.

SPASTIC UNIT

The Unit for twenty spastic children (day and residential) is at the John Greenwood Shipman Convalescent Home. Four children were admitted during 1956 and at the end of the year nine were attending from the County Borough. They receive education and also physiotherapy or other treatment as considered necessary.

Transport by bus or taxi is provided by the Education Committee, if considered necessary.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

152 children were immunised and 653 received reinforcing doses at the School Clinic.

13,374 children in the age-group 5 to 14 years inclusive had been immunised by 31st December, 1956. This is 83.6 per cent. of the estimated population of 16,000 in this age-group. The immunity index, *i.e.*, the proportion of children who have had a course of immunisation within the last five years, is 37.1.

B.C.G. VACCINATION

On 13th September, 1954, the Minister of Health approved an amendment to Northampton County Borough Council's proposals under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, whereby B.C.G. vaccination could be offered to thirteen-year-old pupils, subject to the necessary preliminary tests and to parental consent.

The scheme commenced on 22nd November, 1955, and by the end of that year 140 children had been vaccinated.

Another 694 were vaccinated during 1956.

CLEANLINESS INSPECTIONS

The following Tables give details of cleanliness inspections carried out during the year :—

Maintained Primary and Secondary and Special Schools*

Visits by nurses		298
Examinations made	36,469	
Re-examinations made	696	
Total number of examinations		37,165
Total found to be unclean		760†

Individual Pupils found to be Unclean

Infants and Juniors :—

Males	101	
Females	266	
	—	367

Seniors :—

Males	23	
Females	126	
	—	149

Total	516†
-------------	------

† The difference between the total found unclean (760) and the total *individual* pupils found unclean (516) indicates that some pupils have been found unclean on more than one occasion.

See Table II., page 90.

Nursery Schools

Visits by nurses		56
Examinations made	2,079	
Re-examinations made	23	
	—	
Total number of examinations		2,102
Total found to be unclean		39
Total <i>individual</i> pupils found to be unclean		24

Percentage of Uncleanliness Found (all Schools as detailed above)

1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
3.7	3.0	2.6	1.8	2.2	2.1

Printed instructions giving detailed methods of cleansing were issued to the parents of those children found to be infested. A D.D.T. preparation and a medicated shampoo were supplied when necessary.

Facilities are available at the School Clinic for children's hair to be treated by a trained nurse.

17 children were dealt with in 1956, compared with 45 in 1955.

*Includes Secondary Modern but excludes Secondary Grammar Schools.

SCABIES

The number of new cases treated under the Authority's scheme during 1956 was 15, involving 13 children, 2 children having the infection twice during the year. Three of these cases were pre-school children.

In all cases the health visitor visits the family and refers them to their own doctor, who either gives treatment himself or refers them back to the health visitor. In the latter case, treatment is carried out in the home when facilities are available, otherwise at the School Clinic. Where necessary, the health visitor demonstrates the method of treatment to the mother.

RINGWORM OF THE SCALP

No cases of ringworm of the scalp were noted during 1956.

FREE MEALS

Number of children in receipt of free meals	203
Total number of free meals supplied	28,146
Number of centres where meals were prepared	15

WELLINGTON PLACE SPECIAL SCHOOL

(This School is for educationally sub-normal children).

33 children were examined at routine medical inspections and the School Medical Officers paid 15 visits and made 31 special inspections or re-inspections.

There were 29 special inspections or re-inspections at the School Clinic.

8 children were examined by the Ophthalmic Surgeon.

5 visits were paid by school nurses for cleanliness inspections, when 255 examinations were made.

(These figures are included in the Ministry of Education Tables).

OPEN AIR RECOVERY SCHOOL

25 visits were paid to this School by the School Medical Officers and 42 routine and 372 other examinations were carried out.

Special inspections and re-inspections at the School Clinic numbered 42.

7 children were examined by the Ophthalmic Surgeon.

8 visits were made by the school nurses (3 cleanliness, 1 cleanliness re-examination, and 4 "occasional"), when 278 examinations were conducted.

(These figures are included in the Ministry of Education Tables).

NURSERY SCHOOLS

There are six nursery schools. The number on the rolls was 279 (*see* page 88 for details).

In addition, there is a Nursery Class attached to Bective Infants' School.

374 routine examinations, 4 special examinations, and 150 re-examinations were done at nursery schools.

45 special inspections or re-inspections were made at the School Clinic.

3 children were examined by the Ophthalmic Surgeon.

5 were operated upon for tonsils and adenoids.

In addition, the school nurses paid 57 visits (53 cleanliness, 3 cleanliness re-examination, and 1 "other purpose") and made 2,102 examinations. They also made 43 home visits in connection with nursery children.

OTHER EXAMINATIONS

During the year, 236 special examinations were carried out at the School Clinic as follows :—

Juvenile employment certificates	125
Deaf, blind and educationally sub-normal children (for residential schools)	17
Camp children	5
Theatrical performance licence	1
Boarded-out children	25
Teachers	12
Training college candidates	30
Major Award candidates	21
Total	<hr/> 236 <hr/>

The medical examination of entrants to courses of training for teaching and of candidates in connection with employment as teachers is undertaken by the School Health Service.

INQUIRIES BY N.S.P.C.C.

The Local Inspector of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children made investigations on behalf of the Education Authority into conditions involving 14 families. These were mostly cases of neglect of children and appear to have been dealt with satisfactorily. In this work the Inspector has the benefit of consultation with the School Medical Officers at the School Clinic.

NON-MAINTAINED SECONDARY SCHOOL

Notre Dame High School for Girls

This school was visited during the Spring and Autumn of 1956 by a School Medical Officer for the purpose of carrying out routine medical examinations and for following up children found to be defective at previous examinations.

256 examinations and 44 re-examinations were made.

HANDICAPPED PUPILS

The several categories of handicapped pupils requiring special educational treatment are defined in Regulation 14 of the School Health Service and Handicapped Pupils Regulations, 1953, and the numbers on the register on 31st January, 1957, were as follows :—

	MALES	FEMALES	TOTALS
(1) Blind	—	1	1
(2) Partially sighted	3	2	5
(3) Deaf	6	1	7
(4) Partially deaf	2	2	4
(5) Delicate	33	33	66
(6) Physically handicapped	35	16	51
(7) Educationally sub-normal	43	36	79
(8) Maladjusted	2	4	6
(9) Epileptic	3	2	5
Totals	127	97	224

DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT

The number of sessions (half-day) allocated in 1956 to the administration of the school dental service and to dental inspection and treatment was 469.

In addition, treatment was provided for patients referred under the maternity and child welfare scheme, amounting to 46 sessions.

NUMBER OF SESSIONS DEVOTED TO :—

(1)	Administration		14
(2)	Inspection (a) at School	0 }	23
	(b) at Clinic	23 }	
(3)	Treatment		432
			<hr/> 469
(4)	Maternity and Child Welfare Dental Work...		46
			<hr/>
	Total		515

NOTES :—

(1) Sessions included under administration were those devoted to the preparation of the annual report, attendance at meetings, etc.

(2) In accordance with Regulation 10 (1) (b) of the School Health Service and Handicapped Pupils Regulations, 1953, every pupil who is admitted for the first time to a maintained school should be inspected by a dental officer as soon as possible after admission and on such later occasions as may be practicable and necessary. It is regretted that owing to the fact that only one dentist was available throughout the whole year, it was not possible to comply with the Regulation.

TABLE V. (MINISTRY OF EDUCATION)—DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT CARRIED OUT BY THE AUTHORITY

(1) Number of pupils inspected by the Authority's Dental Officer :—			
(a) At Periodic Inspections (at School)			0
(b) As Specials (at Clinic)			3,056
Total (a) and (b)			3,056
<hr/>			
(2)	Number found to require treatment		2,830
(3)	Number offered treatment		2,830
(4)	Number actually treated		2,783
(5)	Attendances made by pupils for treatment, including those recorded at heading 11 (h) below		9,759
<hr/>			
(6) Half-days devoted to :			
	(a) Periodic Inspection at Clinic		23
	(b) Treatment		432
	Total (a) and (b)		455
	(c) Administration		14
	(d) Maternity and Child Welfare Work		46*
	Total (a), (b), (c), (d) ...		515
<hr/>			
(7) Fillings :			
	Permanent teeth		1,813
	Temporary teeth		72
	Total (7)		1,885
<hr/>			
(8) Number of teeth filled :			
	Permanent teeth		1,469
	Temporary teeth		68
	Total (8)		1,537
<hr/>			
(9) Extractions :			
	Permanent teeth		1,552
	Temporary teeth		3,735
	Total (9)		5,287
<hr/>			
(10) Administration by School Medical Officers of general anæsthetics for extraction			1,675
<hr/>			

* The work under the Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme is summarised in Table 25, page 82.

(11) Orthodontics :—

(a) Cases commenced during the year	124
(b) Cases carried forward from previous year	106
(c) Cases completed during the year	22
(d) Cases discontinued during the year	49
(e) Pupils treated with appliances	82
(f) Removable appliances fitted	83
(g) Fixed appliances fitted	0
(h) Total attendances	1,186

(12) Number of pupils supplied with artificial dentures 24

(13) Other operations :	Permanent teeth	3,330
	Temporary teeth	1,062
	Total (13)	4,392

The preceding Table V. does not include treatment of children attending nursery schools. Details of treatment for these children are given below :—

Number inspected	29	
Referred for treatment	29	
Treated { partly	12 }	29
{ completely	17 }	
Attendances	73	
Extractions	48	
General anæsthetics	21	
Other operations	53	

The use of silver nitrate for conserving deciduous teeth, and also for treating chalky patches on second teeth, has proved to be a reliable form of treatment, but is not shewn separately in the above tables, the figures being included under heading (13) "other operations." 984 deciduous and 374 permanent teeth were treated with silver nitrate during 1956.

Not included in the tables at all is the number of local anæsthetic cases, which reached 1,500 in 1956, and the number of crowns fitted to front second teeth, which amounted to 9.

A disturbing feature of this report is the fact that 1,552 permanent, or second, teeth were extracted and only 1,469 were saved by filling. This is the first time in the history of the School Clinic that more second teeth have been extracted in one year than have been filled. The continued inability to obtain assistant dental officers is largely responsible for this state of affairs. During the last eleven years there has been an assistant for only two years and nine months. It is also true to say that an increase in the sugar intake, the popularity of the ice-lolly, and a slackening in oral hygiene have all played their part in this unfortunate position. It is imperative that the staffing problem be recognised as practically

insoluble as, apart from a general shortage of dentists, employment in the Midlands is not thought so attractive as in the Southern Counties. The only possible solution lies in the intensive education of the general public and it is pleasing to note that the Ministry of Health, prompted by the British Dental Association and supported by the General Dental Council, are seriously considering this matter at the present time and have set up a committee to deal with it.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Considerable difficulties were encountered in an endeavour to maintain the standard of physical education during 1956. Much of the success of playground work depends upon favourable weather and it was disappointing that for long periods during the spring and summer, conditions were such that it was difficult to keep the standard of work high in any but the most vigorous skills and activities. In junior and infants' schools, particularly, teachers prefer to take the physical training lesson out of doors where the playground offers sufficient space to allow complete freedom of movement. Such activities as throwing, skipping, and running can be enjoyed outside with little or no inhibition; moreover, most schools are provided with playground climbing apparatus. It is natural that teachers should try to make as much use as possible of outdoor facilities after the enforced indoor work of the winter months, especially in those schools where the accommodation is limited or where the hall is required for teaching space.

Swimming continued to be a most popular feature of the curriculum of all schools and more children than ever attended the Public Baths and Barry Road Baths. Swimming lessons took place throughout the year at both baths and in all 1,398 children were taught to swim at least fifteen yards. This compares with 1,313 the previous year.

The Authority have been able during 1956 to add to their excellent playing field facilities by providing playing fields at the new Cherry Orchard and Bective Schools. In this connection the co-operation of the Estates Department has been much appreciated. All schools have made the fullest use of the playing field amenities and in athletics particularly considerable progress has been made. More children than ever are taking part in athletic events and with cricket, tennis, and swimming the summer programme is a very full one.

During the year, courses for teachers have been conducted in physical training, cricket, and tennis and opportunities have been provided for non-swimmers amongst teachers to learn to swim.

NOTE : Table A relating to Vital Statistics 1901 to 1956 is on page 84.

TABLE B
COUNTY BOROUGH OF NORTHAMPTON
Cases of Notifiable Diseases during the Year 1956

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED														CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH WARD												Cases Treated in Hospital
	ALL AGES	AGES (IN YEARS)													Castle	Delapre	Kingsley	Kingsthorpe	St. Crispin	St. Edmund	St. George	St. James	St. Michael	South	Spencer	Weston	
		0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65-	Not Known													
Acute Poliomyelitis :—																											
Paralytic	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
Non-paralytic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Dysentery	53	2	9	—	3	4	13	10	2	4	—	3	3	—	3	7	5	2	—	1	6	2	1	—	25	1	6
Erysipelas	26	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	16	3	1	1	1	1	6	1	2	2	1	3	1	6	1	1
Food Poisoning	157	2	3	4	4	2	21	5	41	16	7	28	24	—	11	7	19	13	38	4	7	6	9	5	22	16	14
Measles	461	19	38	53	52	52	239	4	—	—	1	—	—	3	6	79	107	85	25	6	52	11	10	5	44	31	9
Meningococcal Infection	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	
Paratyphoid B	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	
Pneumonia	58	1	3	2	1	—	1	1	—	7	7	21	14	—	1	10	9	10	5	2	2	1	4	—	11	3	5
Puerperal Pyrexia	105	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15	77	12	—	—	1	2	5	5	9	4	2	6	2	1	60	5	4	103
Scarlet Fever	115	1	1	5	12	11	75	8	1	1	—	—	—	—	3	19	9	10	7	3	6	14	5	2	23	14	8
Whooping Cough	30	2	4	4	4	2	13	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	6	2	—	1	3	5	2	—	5	—	2
Tuberculosis :—																											
Respiratory	65	1	1	—	—	3	2	3	4	19	6	18	8	—	14	10	4	6	5	1	2	4	1	1	7	10	46
Other Forms	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	8	1	2	—	—	—	1	—	2	1	1	2	—	—	—	3	2	10
TOTALS	1088	30	61	69	76	74	364	32	65	134	38	88	52	5	43	144	165	147	87	23	88	46	36	74	153	82	210

The above figures allow for corrections in diagnosis and include non-civilian cases. (See Sections VI. and VIII. of this Report for further information).
No notifications were received of other notifiable diseases not specified in the Table above (e.g., diphtheria, malaria, smallpox, typhoid fever).

TABLE C
COUNTY BOROUGH OF NORTHAMPTON
Causes of Death at Different Periods of Life during the Year 1956

CAUSES OF DEATH	NETT DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES (IN YEARS) OF " RESIDENTS "										
	WHETHER OCCURRING WITHIN OR WITHOUT THE DISTRICT										
	ALL AGES			0-	1-	5-	15-	25-	45-	65-	75-
	Total	M.	F.								
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	20	13	7	—	—	—	—	2	12	5	1
2. Tuberculosis, other	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
3. Syphilitic disease	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Whooping cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	4	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	37	22	15	—	—	—	—	2	11	17	7
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	42	37	5	—	—	—	—	2	18	19	3
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	17	—	17	—	—	—	—	3	6	5	3
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	5	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	2
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	104	57	47	—	—	—	—	3	36	28	37
15. Leukæmia, aleukæmia	7	4	3	—	—	1	—	—	3	—	3
16. Diabetes	6	2	4	—	—	—	—	1	—	4	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	222	91	131	—	—	—	1	—	27	49	145
18. Coronary disease, angina	201	134	67	—	—	—	—	2	59	70	70
19. Hypertension with heart disease	40	16	24	—	—	—	—	—	1	6	33
20. Other heart disease	225	96	129	—	—	—	1	4	23	51	146
21. Other circulatory disease	35	23	12	—	—	—	—	—	5	16	14
22. Influenza	6	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	2
23. Pneumonia	36	20	16	6	—	—	—	—	5	9	16
24. Bronchitis	80	59	21	—	—	—	—	—	18	24	38
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	12	9	3	—	—	—	—	—	2	5	5
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	18	13	5	—	—	—	—	1	4	7	6
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa	8	2	6	1	—	—	—	1	1	4	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	4	1	3	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	11	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	7
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	10	6	4	6	1	—	—	1	1	1	—
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	80	39	41	17	1	1	—	3	24	11	23
33. Motor vehicle accidents	8	4	4	—	—	—	2	—	3	1	2
34. All other accidents	27	18	9	3	1	1	1	1	6	3	11
35. Suicide	15	9	6	—	—	—	—	3	5	2	5
36. Homicide and operations of war	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	1289	696	593	34*	3	4	5	32	280	344	587

* 24 of these 34 infants were under four weeks of age.

The above Table was prepared from information supplied by the Registrar-General.

